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Israel

Tzomet announced it was filing a no-confidence motion over the government's decision to freeze construction in the territories, Tel Aviv radio reported. The National Religious Party and Likud joined in criticism of the "sacrilegious" decision, according to the radio. Meanwhile, as the standoff between the IDF and several thousand Palestinians inside al-Najah University in Nabulus continued, the army made an "offer" to deport Palestinian suspects—believed to have taken refuge inside the university—for a 3-year period, Jerusalem radio reported. Palestinian notable Faysal al-Husayni said "no one has accepted it so far," according to the radio.

Palestinian Affairs

The PLO representative to the United Nations appealed for international protection for Palestinians, and urged UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to use his good offices "to deal with the Israeli siege on al-Najah University in Nabulus," according to Algiers radio. Meanwhile, an editorial in Jerusalem's AL-SHA'B warned Prime Minister Rabin not to use the "iron-fist" policy in efforts to resolve the al-Najah crisis.

Egypt

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary, said Cairo "welcomes" President Bush's latest initiative on nuclear nonproliferation. He called the initiative "a step forward" from Bush's May 1991 proposal. Meanwhile, MENA hailed the upcoming talks scheduled between President Mubarak and new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, adding that Rabin's speech to the inaugural Knesset session had set the "appropriate climate" for the meeting.

Iraq

A UN Fijian soldier was shot dead by an unidentified gunman in the northern town of Dahuk on 16 July, according to a UN statement reported by Melbourne radio. A spokesman for UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali expressed "shock" at what he termed "an apppalling act." An investigation into the incident has been opened, according to the report.

India

Shankar Dayal Sharma was elected president of India, Delhi Radio reported on 16 July. The Congress-I candidate won 64.78 percent of the vote. In other news, Delhi radio also reported that a no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government was defeated in the Lok Sabha. News of the motion's defeat was greeted with "loud cheers and thumping of desks" by Congress-I and its allied parties' members.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Israeli 'Siege' at Nabulus

LD1607223992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Jul (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] expressed its deep concern over the siege imposed by the Israeli occupation troops on the Palestinian town of Nabulus and its university and condemned the arbitrary practices of the Israeli authorities against the children of the Palestinian people.

A statement released today by ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid said: "The way the new Israeli authorities are going to deal with the events, which are occurring at a time when the world is looking forward to boosting the peace process in the Middle East, will determine the nature of the Israeli intentions about the peace process and their credibility." The ICO also called on the United Nations and all peaceloving states to take action to have the siege imposed on the town of Nabulus and al-Najah University lifted and to save the students from the barbaric attacks they are being subjected to. The organization stated that these attacks constituted a blatant violation of all the international laws and charters.

The ICO added: "It is the duty of the international community to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories." It stressed that a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region depends on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Palestinian Affairs

'Siege' at al-Najah University Draws Reaction

PLO Asks UN for Protection

LD1707025492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The PLO called on the United Nations, particularly the UN Security Council, to provide international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

In a message addressed by the Palestinian permanent representative to the United Nations to Mr. Butrus-Ghali, the PLO called on the latter to use his good offices and powers authorized to him by UN Security Council Resolution No. 681 to deal with the siege imposed by the Israeli occupation forces on al-Najah University in Nabulus.

Sha'th Denounces 'Barbaric Act'

NC1607183792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, a political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, denounced the Israeli army's siege of al-Najah University in Nabulus, describing it as a provocative and barbaric act in conflict with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's election campaign promises.

In a statement to reporters in Cairo today, Sha'th said: What count are deeds, not words. Rabin's actions do not inspire hope that any real progress will be made toward winning the Palestinian people's confidence, toward promoting the peace process, or toward transferring full authority to a transitional Palestinian government in November.

Sha'th said that Rabin will greet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker by carrying out a siege on the Palestinian people and a campaign of starvation and repression. Shamir, he noted, used to greet Baker by building more settlements.

Sha'th discussed Rabin's constant maneuvering on the settlement issue, saying what is required is that all settlement building be stopped. The Palestinian stand on this issue will remain firm, he said, adding: No progress will be made in the negotiations if the settlement process is not stopped completely.

Envoy to Egypt Holds Briefing

NC1607040392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal held a news conference this evening during which he discussed Israel's siege of al-Najah University in Nabulus. He said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat asked him to convey an urgent message to President Husni Mubarak in an attempt to have him intervene to help lift the siege imposed on the university. Kamal said that about 5,000 students are being detained inside the campus and that the Israeli authorities have cut communications, water, and electricity.

The Palestinian ambassador said that the brother Palestinians are holding contacts with foreign consuls in Israel. Faysal al-Husayni contacted the U.S. Consul to intervene in having the siege lifted.

Kamal said that he asked Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to issue a statement condemning the siege and calling on the international community to intervene. The Palestinian ambassador called on the world public, the United States, and Europe to help end the siege and the deteriorating situation in the occupied areas.

Peace Process Said Imperiled

TA1607154692 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Lift the Siege!"]

[Text] Rabin's snakelike smoothness, by which he tried to depict himself to the Arabs, the Palestinians, and the

international community as a lover of peace and a messenger of love, cannot conceal the real face of the man who surpassed his predecessor in refusing to submit to the international will and in breaking the bones of Palestinians in the early days of the intifadah, when he was defense minister in Shamir's government. Rabin's practices against our students inside al-Najah University campus indicate that he desires to regain his "glory." They also indicate a nostalgia for the policy by which he broke the bones of Palestinians and closed down their universities and schools in a bid to extinguish the fire of the intifadah. Now he is going through that experience once again, not having learned from previous lessons. The popular adage "he who tests the tested is insane" applies to Rabin.

Rabin will be making a big mistake if he thinks that by using the iron fist policy against our people again he can prevent them from continuing their march toward their goal. Visible facts in the course of the intifadah prove that violence breeds more violence. We do not believe that the statements Rabin made upon his assuming power are compatible with the measures he is practicing against our sons in al-Najah University.

Clamping a siege on al-Najah University to disturb the democratic process and to infringe on our sons' democratic right to elect their student body is fraught with immense perils. The incident should turn on more than one alarm for members of our negotiating delegation and demonstrate that future elections will not be secure from the military's provocations. The event shows that we must insist that the occupied territories be placed under international protection.

We see in the siege clamped for the second day on our sons in al-Najah University an extension of the blockade imposed on our brothers in Iraq and Libya, who are suffering from a lack of food and medicine. We call on international humanitarian bodies and institutions and the EC to bear their responsibilities in lifting the siege from our sons at al-Najah University and in forcing Rabin to pursue policies conforming with UN charters [as published] and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which call for providing protection to civilians during wartime.

We believe that any international hesitation in urging Israel to lift the siege and implement UN charters will endanger the peace process in the region.

'Siege' Seen as 'Signal'

TA1607170892 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Rabin's Government Faces Its First Test"]

[Excerpt] The biggest question being posed these days by any Palestinian resident is: What sort of foreign and domestic policies will Rabin's new government pursue? The issue is not just the fate and future of the peace process but also what happens on the ground in the occupied territories. In the first days of the Israeli Government a local problem arose at al-Najah University in Nabulus. The problem has political dimensions within the territories and abroad.

Was what happened at al-Najah University coincidental? By clamping a military siege on the university campus, the new government wanted to give a signal to the Palestinians that its policy toward them has not altered with the change in its members. Some Israelis accused the Palestinians of wanting to test Rabin's intentions regarding their daily lives due to the flexibility in Rabin's speech to the Knesset and because he extends his hands to the Palestinians for coexistence and understanding.

The campus of a university—any university—should be kept out of politics, just as the army should not get involved in educational affairs. No disorder or disturbance occurred at al-Najah University that required the army to intervene and the university to be placed under siege.

Those in charge of the university have the responsibility to preserve its laws and regulations. There was no negligence that called for any outside intervention, particularly since the elections for the student body at the university on that day were being held in a democratic climate and calm prevailed all over the university.

The central concern of the Israeli authorities should be to study what takes place in our educational institutions without interfering in our affairs. Elections in al-Najah University were proceeding in a highly democratic spirit, proving the maturity and awareness of the Palestinian student body. There was no need to fabricate events and intensify them to the point of a confrontation between the university students and the authorities.

We call on the Israeli Government and its prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, to reassess the previous government's policies, programs, and plans. Most important of all, we call on it to reassess its practices and its treatment of the Palestinian people and the youthful student sector, which comprises more than 50 percent of Palestinian society in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

'Arafat To Chair Top-Level Meeting in Tunis

LD1707080892 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] An authoritative Palestinian source announced that the Palestinian leadership will be holding a series of meetings in Tunis next Tuesday and Wednesday [21-22 July] under president Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship, with PLO Executive Committee members, the general secretaries of the various Palestinian detachments, and the Palestinian National Council leadership present.

In a statement to TUNIS-AFRIQUE PRESS agency [TAP], the source added that the agenda includes evaluating Palestinian affairs in the region since the last

Palestinian Central Council meeting and following the formation of the Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Rabin. The meetings will also examine the situation in the occupied Arab territories, intifadah developments, and the forthcoming steps within the framework of the peace process in the Middle East.

The source stated that President Yasir 'Arafat is currently consulting with a number of Palestinian specialized committees—particularly the intifadah and occupied homeland affairs committees—to evaluate the situation in the occupied territories and to be ready to face up to all possibilities following the formation of the new Israeli Government.

'Arafat—Rabin Is Shamir With 'Silk Glove'

LD1407211392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] In a speech delivered yesterday to the 15th session of the Palestinian Higher Council for Education, Culture, and Science, brother president leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that Rabin's statements after the Israeli legislative elections differed from those he made prior to the elections. He added: I am not one of those who is decieved or who is cheering the arrival of Rabin in government. He broke the bones of the Palestinian people at the onset of the intifadah and initiated the settlement policy. He is the one who annexed Jerusalem and took part in annexing the Golan. And he is one of the Zionists who want to entrench their existence in the occupied territories.

Brother Abu 'Ammar confirmed that the Palestinians will not agree to a single word with Rabin until after the approval of the Palestinian legislative council. He added that the Israeli prime minister designate is Shamir but with a silk glove.

PLO's 'Abbas on Rabin Speech 'Positive Points'

LD1607180892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], a PLO Executive Committee member, says Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's speech included two positive points, namely his commitment to establishing autonomy in the occupied territories and to the elections.

Abu-Mazin stressed the existence of many points of disagreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis, including the settlements and the Jerusalem problems. But he maintained that currently both points of autonomy and elections should be concentrated upon. He said: If the Israelis adopt a rational position during the negotiations, the Palestinians and the Arabs will adopt more rational and more flexible positions.

PLO's Bal'awi Remarks on Rabin's 'Sweet Talk'

NC1607130292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 15 Jul (MENA)—Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Tunis, stated that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's invitation to the Palestinians to negotiate with him in Jerusalem is rejected. He added that this invitation for negotiations under Israeli occupation and inside the occupied territories reveals an attempt on Rabin's part to evade the peace process. Bal'awi stated that the Palestinian officials are ready to meet directly or indirectly, secretly or in public with the Israeli officials in any world capital outside the occupied territories and under the UN flag.

In an exclusive interview with MENA today, Bal'awi noted that Israel's policy has yet to crystallize, and when it does, the Palestinian negotiator or official will be able to study it and make the appropriate decision at the appropriate time.

Commenting about Rabin's invitation the day before yesterday to Arab leaders, including the Palestinian delegation, to meet him in Jerusalem, Bal'awi told a MENA correspondent in Tunis that Rabin is very skillfully speaking an attractive political language that is different from his actual views on solving the Palestinian issue. He added: Rabin is trying to tighten his strong grip on the Palestinian territories while at the same time speaking a charming political language, which is nothing but "mere words in the air."

Bal'awi emphasized that the Palestinians attach hopes more to results than to the image through which Rabin is trying to impress the world and the international public. He expressed his belief that the image Rabin is trying to present is an attractive one that appeals to the public and the media, but that such sweet talk cannot make peace. The Palestinian official added: We have repeatedly declared the Palestinian officials' readiness to meet directly with the Israeli officials under the UN flag and inside the international organization. He stated that if Rabin is calling for a meeting, but in a veiled manner, we have no objection to it and are ready to meet with the Israeli officials, but Rabin must not try to court the world public in such a manner.

Bal'awi recalled the PLO's initiatives to achieve peace, noting that the PLO was the first party to seek and make plans for peace. The Palestinian official added that the world must fully realize that the Palestinian party is the one that long has been raising the banner of peace.

Bal'awi questioned whether what Rabin is now offering means the implementation of the UN and international legitimacy resolutions. He added: If this is what Rabin means, we want nothing more than the implementation of the international resolutions. He added that the Palestinians are not impressed much by form or surprised by such verbal pronouncements. He stressed that all that

the Palestinians are interested in is obtaining their rights, and they do not ask the international legitimacy for more than implementing the UN resolutions and giving each party its due rights.

The Palestinian official noted that if Rabin is extending the hand of peace through the political language he spoke in the Knesset, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO have been doing the same for many years and have raised the olive branch as a symbol for peace at the UN and on various occasions, including the Palestinian peace initiative and the agreement to participate in the Madrid peace conference in response to U.S. President George Bush's invitation.

Concluding his interview, Bal'awi said that Rabin is holding the entire Palestinian people prisoner, while at the same time he is inviting others to go to the occupied territories to negotiate with him. This means that he wants to take more prisoners, he added.

PNSF, Hamas Issue Joint Anti-Rabin Statement

JN1607184692 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued the following statement:

On 17 July 1992, the PNSF and Hamas convened a meeting to discuss Palestinian politics against the background of the Zionist general election that was won by the Rabin-led Labor Party, whose political program envisaging autonomy certain official Palestinian and Arab circles sought to promote. The substance of his program is not unlike other Zionist political programs aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and the rights of its people. The present stage is made all the more serious by the fact that the political process seeks, more than anything else, to quell the intifadah ahead of putting the autonomy plan into action.

The interlocutors also discussed the recent regrettable incidents in the Gaza Strip, which advance the U.S.-Zionist scheme to halt the intifadah. They condemned the conduct of the leadership controlling the PLO, which was behind fanning the flames of the conflicts and plots. They further urge all the forces and masses of our people to rise to the level of the present stage and close ranks and unify their militant effort to abort the U.S.-Zionist scheme and to confront occupation.

PNC's Subayh Urges Rabin To Prove Peace Desire

NC1407120192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to stop building all settlements in the occupied Arab territories; to release thousands of Palestinian detainees; and to disarm Israeli settlers to prove that he really desires peace. He also called on Rabin to cancel a Knesset decision banning contacts with the PLO.

In a statement to MENA, Subayh explained that the PLO judges any Israeli leadership based on its commitment to peace and its implementation of UN resolutions.

Subayh said that if Yitzhaq Rabin proves the good intentions of his government, he will be able to meet with high-level Palestinian leaders within the framework of the United Nations to find a just, comprehensive, and permanent solution in the region.

Subayh said the Palestinian people have lost confidence in Israeli governments due to the Likud's repression and killing of Palestinians during the 15 years it was in power.

Dailies React to Rabin Speech to Knesset

Rabin Urged To Deal With Peace Process

TA1407180092 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Rabin's Government and the Peace Process"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the new Israeli prime minister, while presenting his new government to the Knesset, tried in a "dramatic" manner to invite the leaders of Arab states to come to Israel and suggested alternatively that he visit them, to talk about peace. His attempt, however, was normal within an ordinary and unexciting context. Political peace talks or negotiations with the Arab states concerned—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—actually exist and have continued for the past five rounds. Those countries were getting ready, even before Rabin became Israel's prime minister, for a sixth round in Rome.

Rabin, therefore, did not add anything new by his invitation, especially since he excluded the leadership of the PLO, our Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, from his invitation, which apparently was made more for media consumption than for any other thing remotely connected to the issue of peace.

In any event, Rabin's new government does not need the uproar of the media as much as it needs to deal seriously with the peace process on the bases it proclaimed at the Madrid conference and in accordance with UN resolutions and the principles advocated by the conference's cosponsors, the United States and Russia, particularly the principle of land for peace. That principle determines the inevitability of halting settlement activity in all its forms and names, which Rabin himself recently invented in a long series of press statements and interviews.

A new historical phase has begun in Rabin's life. If he really so wishes, this could become the phase of genuine

peace, and it cannot bear more maneuvering and foot-dragging. Otherwise, it will be a repetition, though in another guise, of Shamir's previous phase.

In return, our Palestinian and Arab hand is stretched out today, as it has been since 1988, without hesitation and with the utmost clarity and decisiveness, toward genuine peace.

Arab Summit Called For

TA1607060492 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 15 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Rabin's Speech and Arab Differences!"]

[Text] Apparently, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's speech in the Knesset two days ago is still managing to elicit Palestinian, Arab, and international reaction. It is noteworthy in this context that the most conspicuous reaction came from the U.S. Administration in the form of Bush's personal invitation to Rabin to visit him in the beginning of August and in the official announcement about Baker's visit to the region next Sunday.

By this, Washington is trying to underscore in a practical manner its complete satisfaction with Rabin, his government, and his speech. Evidently, in this carefully orchestrated effort, it is exerting direct or indirect pressure on the Arab states concerned—Syrian, Jordan, and Lebanon—as well as on us, the Palestinians, whether inside or outside the occupied territories. Ultimately, this pressure is aimed at promoting joint U.S.-Israeli interests.

In fact, this U.S. effort was totally expected. Although we do not believe that the Bush administration will go so far as to agree now to give the loan guarantees to Rabin's government—after it withheld them from Shamir's government—at least as long as the issue of settlements is not resolved, in return we do not expect inter-Arab differences to continue, for example, even over Rabin's speech.

The continuation of those differences, in addition to postponing the Arab summit slated to be held in Damascus between the four Arab parties directly involved in the negotiations, as well as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, simply means that Rabin will rest on his laurels and will exploit all this in his upcoming visit to Washington.

Rabin has succeeded, in one fell swoop, to toss the political ball into the Arab court, or into a number of Arab courts. As far as we are concerned, it is inconceivable that this should elicit only Arab media reaction. This Arab summit should be convened quickly and should provide the utmost degree of Arab coordination, on the basis of which clear political decisions should be issued.

Editorial: Rabin To Be Judged by Deeds

TA1507160492 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 9

[Editorial: "Rabin Between Smooth Talk and Required Action"]

[Excerpts] Rabin presented his government to the Knesset two days ago and asked for a vote of confidence, which he had already secured. In his policy statement, Rabin tried to portray himself as prime minister of an Israeli Government that is different from its predecessor in its approach and goals. Apart from stressing a change of Israeli priorities in a serious effort to address the deteriorating economic situation in Israel, Rabin tried to depict his government as one that will try to achieve a political settlement with the Arab parties, starting with the Palestinians in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

The world might be dazzled by the "positive tone" of Rabin's speech, and statesmen might marvel at the new Israeli prime minister's acumen, diplomacy, and pragmatism; any change after Shamir is considered "positive progress." It must be cautioned, however, that Rabin was expected to engage in a lot of "smooth talk," which is part of the campaign he is leading to improve Israel's image in the world. It should be stressed that the Palestinians are not interested in such talk, but rather in the deeds that must accompany it. There is a long list of deeds that Rabin should begin implementing immediately if he wishes to be taken seriously by the Palestinians. We have heard much talk in the past and are still awaiting the deeds.

At any rate, in order that there be a beginning, we must emphasize to Rabin at the outset that he made a serious mistake when he chose in his policy statement to address the occupied territories' Palestinians independently and asked them to accept "autonomy." Such an approach will not help Rabin, because it was worn out a long time ago. Rabin should accept the facts of history if he wishes the Palestinian people to do likewise.

Rabin must understand something candidly and clearly: The Palestinians are people stripped of their legitimate national rights. No one can split the bond between "inside" and "outside," and no settlement can be reached in the region without them or at their expense. Despite the fact that he understood this political equation when he expressed the desire to hold intensive talks with the Palestinian side because it is the principal party in the problem and in a settlement, Rabin wanted to keep maneuvering on the clear Palestinian rights. We must now tell him with extreme frankness: Maneuvering might give Rabin some more time, improve Israel's international standing, and help to redress Israel's economic situation somewhat, but his maneuvering and "smooth talk" will not lead to an acceptable settlement. The test still is of deeds, not words.

Rabin's Peace Settlement Credentials Viewed

PM1507142392 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Jul 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Will Rabin Follow al-Sadat's Steps?"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin formed his Labor coalition government, won the Knesset's vote of confidence, and is now in a position to implement the policies on the basis of which he entered the general parliamentary elections three weeks ago and on the basis of which he restored his party to power after an absence of 15 years.

In the new cabinet, Rabin has taken the defense portfolio and given the foreign ministry to his arch rival in the party, Shim'on Peres. In his first statement after winning the vote of confidence he expressed readiness to go to some Arab capitals in search of peace.

Rabin certainly made that declaration to sound out some Arab capitals, particularly the Gulf capitals and then Damascus and Cairo. If he goes there he goes not in search of peace but in seach of normalization of relations, of economic and trade ties, especially with the rich states.

The road to peace and to normalization is clear. Anyone seeking peace is not required to go to Damascus, Cairo, or Riyadh, but should go to Tunis to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and declare his readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and to implement the UN resolutions.

By retaining the defense ministry and banishing Peres to the foreign ministry he is in fact giving security precedence over peace. He also wants to use the experience he acquired when he served as Shamir's defense minister in the coalition government formed by the two main parties to quell the intifadah, particularly as he is now at the peak of his power, carrying out his own policies, not someone else's.

What we fear most is that Rabin's assumption of power might lead to adverse results contrary to the aspirations of many Arabs who rejoiced at Shamir's and the Likud's downfall and expected an early settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Rabin is no dove, even though his statements suggest that he is. He is against political settlements but he is all for security settlements. He is in favor of autonomy for the Palestinians but against Jerusalem being part of the occupied Arab territories. He is for good relations with Washington to secure the loan guarantees for the settlement of new immigrants but he is not against the influx of more immigrants to Israel.

Dealing with Rabin as prime minister of the Hebrew state is going to be more difficult than dealing with his predecessor Shamir. The latter was clear in his attitude and policies and, therefore, his steps were easy to predict, but Rabin wants to achieve everything that Shamir failed to achieve but more easily and more intelligently.

The Arabs and Palestinians should adopt a more decisive attitude toward Rabin and they should block his attempts to split Arab ranks, particularly the ranks of the Arab states participating in the negotiations, and, last but not least, they should not give away the boycott card. The West wants normalization to be speeded up as a gesture of Arab goodwill, as if all the concessions the Arabs have already made were insufficient demonstrations of goodwill.

Official Hopes for U.S.-PLO 'Direct Contact'

NC1707103792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0948 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh made a statement today that the PLO hopes to resume direct contact with the United States following the U.S. elections in November.

He said there are Palestinian-U.S. contacts taking place through the Palestinian delegation participating in the peace talks, which receives its instructions directly from the PLO.

The Palestinian official asked the U.S. Administration to hold direct public contact with the PLO to achieve both parties' goals. He pointed out that there are many Arab and non-Arab parties that are exerting extensive efforts and contacts to restore U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which ceased in 1990, because a group of Palestinians attacked a Tel Aviv beach.

Subayh denied in his statement that there is any tension in Palestinian-Iraqi relations. He said contacts continue between both sides and are based on fraternal relations.

He adds that the PLO did not support the occupation of Kuwait and that it conveyed numerous messages during the Gulf crisis about the subject of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Subayh affirmed that Palestinian-Syrian relations are constantly improving. He said the Syrian Government has allowed a number of PLO offices to reopen in Damascus, indicative of improving relations.

Daily Views Upcoming Baker Visit to Region

TA1507161592 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Baker's Upcoming Tour"]

[Text] U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler announced yesterday that in the wake of the formation of the new Israeli Government, headed by Yitzhaq Rabin, Secretary of State James Baker will embark on a new tour to the capitals of the region's states

in a bid to accelerate the peace process, so that this process might reach its desired objectives.

Although we do not wish to preempt events and raise doubts about Baker's ability to bring about the required shift in the Israeli position in order to advance the peace process on the basis of Israeli recognition of international legitimacy's resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, the outcome of Baker's previous tours indicates that we should not have any illusions about Baker's upcoming visit. The reason is that, on the whole, Israeli wishes were complied with in those tours and the upcoming visit will not deviate from that pattern. It is expected that Baker will announce the offer of the $10 billion in loan guarantees, after the U.S. Administration expressed its satisfaction at Rabin's speech of two days ago during the procedures to secure the vote of confidence for his government.

In any event, we prefer to wait until the conclusion of Baker's upcoming tour to see how the U.S. deals with continued Israeli rejection of the principle of land for peace and with Israel's refusal to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

We believe that the U.S. Administration is now facing the real test to prove its credibility in advancing the peace process, so that the process might realize its desired aims. The administration holds strong cards to pressure the new Israeli Government and force it to respond to the requirements of peace—to which the Arabs and the Palestinians have responded—and to avoid any measures that might hinder the peace process.

Qaddumi To Lead Delegation to Damascus Meeting

NC1707103292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0849 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi will lead the Palestinian delegation to the meetings of the foreign ministers of Arab countries participating in the peace talks set to convene in Damascus on 24 July.

A responsible Palestinian source made this statement in Cairo, clarifying that during this meeting, discussions will focus on the results of the previous rounds of peace negotiations and ways to bolster Arab coordination during the coming stage, as well as the development of events in the region, especially after the Israeli Labor Party victory in the recent elections and the formation of the new government.

On the sidelines of this meeting, the source said, Qaddumi will meet with ranking Syrian officials and discuss relations between the PLO and Syria and ways to remove all obstacles to these relations.

Syrian-Palestinian relations greatly improved recently when a number of PLO offices were reopened in Syria.

Palestinian Team Cited on Peace Talks Strategy

PM1607155492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 5

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Palestinian Peace delegation"]

[Excerpts] Occupied Jerusalem, Information Services Center—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and six of its members. They are Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha; Ghassan al-Khatib; Dr. Su'ad al-'Amiri; Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat; and Dr. Samir 'Abdallah. It also interviewed Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the higher advisory committee for the negotiations.

On the settlement issue—and regardless of Rabin's distinction between the security settlements that he does not want to halt and the political settlements he is offering to freeze—all delegates unanimously agreed that a halt to settlement is still the fundamental demand to be made at the next talks. This is in addition to a halt to settlement in Jerusalem, which Rabin regards as "Israel's eternal and unified capital."

In this connection Faysal al-Husayni said "we are talking about the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the stipulations of Resolution 242. Thus Israeli forces must withdraw from them. But if they begin by halting settlement in the West Bank, we will not tell them we reject that. We will actually welcome it and then continue to demand that settlement be halted in Jerusalem."

As for the head of the Palestinian delegation, he said "the various parties should not regard the Labor Party's winning government power as a prelude to demands that the Palestinians offer more concessions. The Palestinian negotiating delegation cannot abandon the outlines of the plan it put forward in the series of past rounds. The territory and settlement question will remain the most important issue in the strategy for present negotiations. And we hope no one will ask us to abandon this demand."

Zakariyya al-Agha pointed to the demand to halt—and not completely abandon—existing settlements, by saying that it does not mean that we demand the dismantling of settlements. We want settlement to be halted as a starting point for discussion of the other issues at the negotiating table. The balance of power is very important. And we are now in a new era. And the United States wants calm—which requires that the centers of tension be defused. It goes without saying that the terms on which we entered the peace process are unfair, but we are trying to seize the opportunity to improve them.

Dr. Su'ad al-'Amiri believes that peace prospects have improved with the Labor Party's arrival. "But the Labor Party's proposal to classify settlements as security settlements and political settlements is completely unacceptable, indicates discouraging inclinations, and reflects the Labour

Party's efforts to circumvent the demand that settlement be halted and to obtain the U.S. loan guarantees."

Palestinian delegation members expressed their fears of Rabin's offers and the possibility of pulling the rug from under the Arabs' feet through Israel's moving closer to Washington.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is in charge of coordination with the Arab delegations, expects "Rabin to make offers designed to divide the Arab negotiating parties by concentrating on the multilateral talks instead of the bilateral talks, since the Arabs will be there in abundance. This is why the time has come to deepen Arab coordination and plan intelligently to link the multilateral talks and progress in them to progress in the bilateral talks."

On the Israeli-U.S. relationship, he said: "Rabin is a master of compromise offers. And through his position on settlement he is removing an important obstacle to obtaining the U.S. loan guarantees. Compromise offers might tempt the U.S. Administration—which could lead to further pressures being exerted on the Palestinians and Arabs." [passage omitted]

Samir 'Abdallah spoke about the PLO's unity with the delegation and demanded that it be deepened and that "the forms of Palestinian participation in the political process be corrected. This, because from the outset the delegation has expressed its protest at the forms of and conditions for Palestinian participation. He emphasized that the PLO is the authority and the decisionmaker. And that the delegation will not stop demanding that the PLO be directly represented at the negotiations." [passage omitted]

Zakariyya al-Agha said "... regardless of some overoptimistic Palestinian views about the Labor Party, I believe that Rabin's silk gloves conceal an iron fist and sharp and fierce teeth. And I tell you frankly that there is a Palestinian counterstrategy and a Palestinian negotiating tactic which is in line with the change that has taken place. But I will not go into the details for reasons known to you."

The Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homes in the 1948 area was endorsed by conventions, was stipulated by UN Resolution 194, and has been reiterated by numerous resolutions since 1948. But it has still not been raised at the negotiating table. And no forces or parties in Israel support it. The spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department pointed to Washington's acceptance of Resolution 194, but came back and said that the parties concerned should negotiate about it. So what does the Palestinian negotiating team say on this topic?

Faysal al-Husayni said: "Resolution 194 talks about the right, and there can be no bargaining over the right. As to the details, such as who should return and should they return to their homes or accept compensation as stipulated by the resolution in question—these are questions which can be the subject of negotiations.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi was more frank. He said: "It is difficult to follow to the letter the resolution concerning the refugees' right to return to their homes, because the Palestinian negotiating team has taken the changes on the ground into account. The Israeli side should—first—express willingness to recognize and acknowledge the right of return to the occupied Palestinian territories, then we will make UN Resolution 194 the subject of negotiations to implement the spirit of the resolution, not its literal text."

'Abd-al-Shafi revealed an important point in this regard which concerns Israel's fears of the increase in its Arab population if the right of return is implemented. He said: "We will negotiate about increasing the area of the state's territory so as to meet the needs of the refugees wishing to return." He said that the question of return is raised more as a long-term issue, rather than as an issue of vital importance now. [passage omitted]

Jordanian-Palestinian Summit To Be Held 'Soon'

PM1507150892 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 92 p 3

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Sha'th Tells AL-HAYAH: Jordanian-Palestinian Summit in Amman Soon"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, told AL-HAYAH yesterday that a Jordanian-Palestinian summit meeting will be held in Amman soon within the framework of Palestinian coordination with the cordon states. He expressed the PLO's desire to reach the highest degree of coordination in the negotiation process.

Sha'th emphasized the importance of Arab coordination "in this crucial stage with a view to enhancing the Palestinian Arab negotiators' bargaining power in such circumstances."

He said that efforts were being made to raise to foreign minister level Saudi and Moroccan participation in the cordon states' meeting in Damascus 24 July. [passage omitted]

He added that the Palestinian leadership will hold a meeting in Tunis and another for the negotiating Palestinian delegation in Amman soon within the framework of preparations for the Damascus meetings. He pointed out that President Husni Mubarak's meetings with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Alexandria two days ago were held within the context of the same aims.

Regarding the importance of the Damascus meeting, Sha'th said that "it will study all possibilities concerning the entire negotiation process; action to completely halt settlements everywhere, including Jerusalem; not allowing the new Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, to interfere in this matter; coordination over the multilateral negotiations; and the possibilities concerning the position on the Palestinian transitional government."

Regarding the reports of contacts with a view to Palestinian-Israeli meetings attended by officials from both sides, the Palestinian president's political adviser said: "There is nothing specific so far, though the question is being broached in principle." He cited "president 'Arafat's announcement of his willingness to meet with Shamir anywhere except Jerusalem." He also cited meetings between ministers in the Rabin government, including Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni, and PLO members. But he stressed that "it is not time for that; it will take time." [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC, Hamas Agree To Coordinate 'Struggle'

JN1607185392 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, held a lengthy central meeting. During the meeting, the two parties discussed the serious stage being experienced by the Palestine question and its destructive results, especially regarding conspiracies that aim to stop the glorious intifadah, attempts to circumvent the rights of our Palestinian people through the policy of negotiations and surrender and giving in to U.S.-Zionist conditions, and the program of liquidating the Palestine question, as represented in the conspiracy of self-rule.

Views of the two parties were identical regarding the need to continue the glorious intifadah by all means. Both parties also agreed on the importance of firmly opposing the program of normalization and the suspect conspiracy of self-rule, and on intensifying programmed efforts to foil hostile plans.

As a result of a series of meetings and bilateral dialogues, and out of a desire to reinforce common denominators of the jihad and struggle program, an agreement has been reached between the PFLP-GC and Hamas, stipulating coordinating struggle activities and bilateral cooperation inside Palestine on all issues and in all fields related to escalating the revolution, protecting the glorious intifadah, and pursuing the road of jihad and struggle.

Together on the path of liberating man and land.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC; the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas

Hamas Official Views 'Deep Differences' With Fatah

JN1507180792 Amman AL-LIWA' in Arabic 15 Jul 92 pp 6, 7

[Interview with engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Hamas Movement in Jordan, at the Islamic Movement deputies' office, by Usamah 'Aknan—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Aknan] Newspapers and Arab and international news agencies last week carried details of the bloody clashes that took place between the Hamas Movement and the Fatah Movement in the Gaza Strip. Can you explain the reasons for these clashes, the number of casualties, and how you recently agreed to stop it?

[Ghawshah] In the name of god, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

These clashes have not surprised anyone who has been following recent developments. They have arisen from clear and deep differences between the Hamas Movement and the PLO's political trend. These differences began on the eve of the Madrid conference, when Hamas rejected Bush's settlement plan and at the same time urged objecting to the plan, particularly during the strike staged on 30-31 October 1991. Hamas unified the positions of 10 factions, which signed the Tehran statement on 22 October 1991. The statement reads "No to the Madrid conference; No to relinquishing any inch of the land of Palestine; and Yes to jihad and struggle."

After the statement was issued and the strike achieved unprecedented success, the PLO leadership faced an unenviable situation, because the Palestinian people and all factions were against the plan. Only one main faction and two modest factions—namely, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine-'Abd- Rabbuh faction, the Communist Party, and 'Arafat's main Fatah faction—supported the conference on the understanding that some wings in Fatah reject the settlement plan and the performance of the negotiating delegation. During that strike, scores of Hamas and Fatah supporters were wounded in the Gaza Strip. Regrettably, the PLO leadership declared in front of a number of Palestine National Council [PNC] members that it decided to curb the Hamas Movement.

Therefore, the reason for these clashes is the PLO's decision to curb Hamas.

An information and political campaign was launched against the Islamic current inside and outside the occupied territories. A so-called pact of honor was recently proposed about the understanding that Hamas and Fatah signed a pact of honor on 21 October 1990, but it was violated by Fatah forces that did not comply with this statement.

To maintain the unity of ranks, brothers on Hamas inside the occupied territories began a dialogue to formulate a pact of honor to define relations between the two sides. But regrettably, Fatah announced the pact before it was signed. After the Israeli Labor Party won, Hamas received documented information that there is a plan to liquidate some Hamas Movement leaders in Gaza by exploiting the contents of the pact of honor and the results of the Israeli elections. This compelled Hamas to issue a statement to influential elements in Fatah warning about executing the devilish plan. The statement immediately resulted in a premeditated aggression on the funeral of al-Raqab's family. The so-called Fatah hawks opened their machine guns on unarmed people extending condolences to that family, wounding six

people, two of them seriously, which was the spark that led to the regretted clashes. Through the Madrid conference, they want to hold the planned self-rule elections at the end of this year in a quiet atmosphere, which will require easing or stopping the intifadah by curbing and liquidating the main currents operating in the intifadah, like Hamas.

The first lesson derived from the clashes is that Hamas is a deep-rooted Islamic current in the camps, villages, and cities. It is impossible to uproot it or curb its size as was expected by the Madrid team. Now that a fraternal cease-fire agreement was reached on Friday, 10 July 1992, we hope to see a cessation of this fraternal conflict that threatens the future of the intifadah. We fear that the future of the intifadah will become like that of the 1936-39 revolution.

['Aknan] In his report to the PLO Central Council, 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, recommended that work must be done to stop the collapse in the Palestinian arena in front of the increasing influence of Hamas. Can we understand the recent bloody events within this framework and in light of Zaki's recommendation?
[Ghawshah] This question makes us go directly to the issue of national unity. This report makes us believe that some brothers in the Fatah Movement look at Hamas as an external opponent, not a brother. The paper wants the factions affiliated with the PLO to close ranks to absorb this expansion or bugaboo represented by Hamas. This view in itself is one of the causes of the confrontation that have taken place recently in the Gaza Strip.

The Hamas view of national unity is objective and clear: National unity should include all Islamic and influential Palestinian forces in the Palestinian arena. The ground of this national unity should be solid so that it will not crack easily, which requires the factions' concern about the constants of the Palestinian people. These constants are represented by the following: The sacredness and unity of Palestinian soil; rejecting all UN resolutions that give the usurper occupation forces any right to the land of Palestine; jihad and struggle are the main and basic roads to liberate the land of Palestine; and the Palestine question is an Islamic issue in addition to its being a Palestinian and Arab cause. This fact was clear at the beginning of this century, but the Palestine question was first stripped of the Islamic dimension; it was then stripped of the Arab dimension, and then it was stripped of the Palestinian dimension. It now has a factional dimension only. The national unity that we seek should be based on intellectual and political pluralism. The popular expression and proportional representation should be democratic in the Palestinian institutions. [passage omitted]

['Aknan] It seems that the settlement process is moving toward achieving a form of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. We know, as you know, that autonomy needs armed policemen. Do you believe that the police force would be a tool against those who oppose settlement and autonomy? What will the situation be like if the side rejecting the settlement insists on confrontation while the other part insists on preventing any obstacles by any party?

[Ghawshah] We believe that autonomy will pass through three stages: First, the preautonomy stage; that is, the stage we are passing through now; second, the stage of autonomy elections; third, the stage during which the autonomy will be applied if the elections succeed.

The Hamas Movement—in its capacity as an Islamic movement that leads the camp that rejects relinquishing even a single inch of Palestinian territory—will be involved and engaged in these three phases. Hamas hopes that the self-rule issue will be done away with in the first phase. It is our hope that popular pressure will be strong enough to convince the current Madrid talks team of the need to shun self-rule. At this point, we would like to affirm that Hamas will exhaust its resources to thwart the efforts aimed at achieving self-rule, albeit within the framework of democratic and nonviolent methods. Hamas also hopes that the parties that are interested in promoting self-rule will not overlook the facts and realities produced on the ground since the convocation of the Madrid conference. Similarly, Hamas believes that some other Palestinian factions that have not thus far put their full weight behind the fight against self-rule will do so, because we are running short of time. Every passing day is precious, and when the popular momentum becomes greater and when factions redouble their efforts against self-rule, the Madrid conference team will find itself compelled to reconsider its views vis-a-vis the issue.

Regarding the second phase, if an agreement is reached on elections, the picture will become clearer. Some popular sectors that hoped they would have the opportunity of alleviating their sufferings have now gained a clearer picture of the situation. They are expected to delineate their position vis-a-vis elections decisively.

The Islamic movement in Palestine is part of the world Islamic movement, which has a 60-year old experience in Islamic action under adverse circumstances and showed itself to be capable of withstanding bleak conditions. As for the Palestinian Islamic movement, it will be able to identify the means and ways of coping with any self-rule phase that may be in the offing. [passage omitted]

['Aknan] Why does the Hamas Movement insist on working outside the framework of the PLO, which represents legitimacy, even though Islamic movements in other parts of the Arab world accept engaging themselves in politics through parliaments of countries whose legitimacy they do not recognize for violating Islamic tenets, such as Algeria, Egypt, and Jordan? Why has the Hamas Movement set impossible conditions for joining the PLO ranks? And why do currents within the PLO oppose any concessions that could be granted to Hamas to induce it to join the legitimate authority?

[Ghawshah] We are not after disharmony and the adoption of a separate course. We want to engage in our jihad, struggle, and political action from within the Palestinian people. We have never projected ourselves as a substitute to the PLO, which is clear in our charter, literature, and statements. And when PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih invited us to attend meetings of the preparatory committee, we sent him our famous memorandum in April 1990. In this memorandum, we affirmed our readiness and willingness to be represented in the PNC, which is the most important Palestinian institution, which means we want to join the PLO. But the question remains regarding how this joining is to take place.

We presented brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and brother Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], with whom we held a dialogue in August and September 1991, the following three options:

The first option: We would be willing to be represented in the PNC after holding free and honest elections. We told them that we would accept the representation percentage that the Palestinian people would give us. If this percentage were to prove to be a meager one, we said that we would accept playing the role of constructive opposition.

The second option: If elections were to be impossible, as PLO leaders claim, even though they are calling for them right now, then Hamas and all other forces and factions must then be represented according to the leverage they wield. We estimated our weight and leverage to be one that represents 40 percent of the Palestinian people. We presented evidence on how this percentage was obtained, depending on the results of elections held before and after the eruption of the intifadah, particularly at universities, which provide a very comprehensive representative population. Moreover, our participation and involvement in the intifadah stands for no less than 40 percent of the intifadah activities.

The third option: We would be willing to be represented in the PNC if an agreement is reached between the PLO and Hamas, containing a "political" program that takes into account the constants of the Palestinian people. If such an agreement is hammered out, the requested representation percentage could be reconsidered.

Regrettably, these options were thrown overboard. We have not received any response to them from the PLO. We were offered 18 PNC seats; that is, less than 4 percent of the PNC seats. [passage omitted]

Fatah Official Discusses Differences With Hamas

JN1607061292 Amman AL-LIWA' in Arabic
15 Jul 92 pp 8-9

[Interview with Marwan al-Barghuthi, Fatah Revolutionary Council member, by Usamah 'Aknan in the Palestinian Embassy in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Aknan] Last week, the Arab and world media reported in detail the sanguinary clashes between the Fatah Movement and the Hamas Movement in the Gaza Strip. Can you explain the cause of these clashes and reveal the losses sustained? How were they stopped? [Al-Barghuthi] Let me go back to explain the relationship between the Islamic movement and the Palestinian national movement, particularly the PLO, before the intifadah: From 1967 to 1985, the Islamic movement was not active in resisting the occupation. The Islamic body was not active against the occupation. Perhaps they had their own reasons. They say that their efforts were concentrating on Islamic call and guiding the people. Dialogues were held with the Islamic movement and the Islamic bodies in universities, colleges, and establishments to organize relations between them and the Fatah Movement after more than one clash in 1981 and 1983 in the Bi'r Zayt University, in the Islamic University in Gaza, in the al-Najah University of Nabulus, and in many institutions.

We in the Fatah Movement have always called for activating the Islamic movement. We do not see that we have an ideological problem with that movement, unlike the Communist Party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine with which we have ideological differences. Our differences are political. They are Muslims and we are Muslims, and we have always worked to attract the Islamic movement to the confrontation trenches with the occupation.

We were having a number of dialogue sessions until the intifadah broke out. To begin with, two currents emerged in Hamas. I believe that the Hamas Movement was pushed to take its place in the national struggle by the generation that lived and interacted with the national movement. They were mainly the Palestinian university graduates. They imposed the resistance to occupation and formed Hamas within the Muslim Brotherhood. Even weeks after the intifadah broke out, there was still a current that hesitated to participate in the intifadah battle. Nevertheless, I believe that the first movement to welcome the emergence of Hamas and incorporate it in the nationalist movement was Fatah. Fatah held talks with it after it issued its charter. We held with them dozens of periodic sessions in order to reach a minimum level of agreement, namely, organizing the program of struggle of the intifadah, such as strikes, days of confrontation, days of escalation. And we attempted to reach common ground.

We were not successful, because Hamas was attempting to impose its presence on the Palestinian streets, which led to some clashes, especially since there was a third party in the streets, the occupation, its agents. They tried to intervene every time; therefore, the Hamas Movement and the nationalist movement did not have full control of the streets. The occupation authorities distributed 121 forged statements during the intifadah. I have 93 of them. These statements, which were written by the Israeli intelligence department, were aimed to foment internal strife.

Issues remained as they were until the Madrid peace march began. A division appeared in the Palestinian arena. There was Hamas opposing the peace talks with 10 organizations rallying behind it. This group began to issue statements calling for joint strikes. Regrettably, Hamas began to confront the peace process with violence. It called for and tried to impose strikes on people. For our part, we believe that in internal confrontations, the average Palestinian citizens should not be involved.

Why do you force the shopkeeper who supports the Madrid conference to shut down his shop? What right do you have to force him to do that? There should be a democratic option, even in political protests. Hamas has the right to issue a statement, but it should not force the masses to do things against their will.

We proposed a document about how to define the differences between us and Hamas Movement. Yes, we differ politically, but both of us agree on the need to continue the intifadah. There is a common denominator between the opposition forces and the peace forces in the Palestinian arena. We want the intifadah to continue as a pressure card in negotiations, while they want the intifadah to continue to foil any agreement with the Israelis and the Americans. Both of us agree on the need to continue the intifadah. Therefore, we should avoid internal conflict. Hamas called scores of times for comprehensive strikes to protest political steps, which is not fair. Comprehensive strikes are one of the characteristics of the intifadah, which is directed against the occupation and which should not be used for internal confrontations.

At the beginning of the Madrid conference, the returning Palestinian delegation was accorded a warm reception in Gaza, which showed that there was more support for Madrid and the negotiating Palestinian delegation from Gazans than expected by many people. More than 100,000 people accompanied Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to his home, which caused nervousness in some Palestinian forces that are opposed to Madrid and the peace march.

Various union elections took place in Gaza after the Madrid conference. The Fatah Movement won an overwhelming majority in the Chamber of Commerce elections; the trade unions of the engineers accountants, doctors, and lawyers; and others. He who wins in elections enjoys, in my view, a strong presence in the street. Fatah and the national list won unexpectedly. Fatah and the national forces lost in Ramallah, one of their strongholds, and won in Gaza, a stronghold of the Islamic movement.

Now that Hamas has lost all the institutions, it has become restless, and it feels cornered, particularly when many seminars and mass rallies were held in support of the peace process. Such rallies were held in Khan Yunus, al-Shati', Jabaliya, Rafah, al- Shaqurah, and all areas in Gaza and the West Bank. The weak voice of the opposition was very clear; there was a mass rally around the Madrid forces, the forces of peace. And this is what happened. One month ago, a campaign began inside the occupied territory under the slogan: "The liquidation of the agents and suspects in the occupied territory must be controlled." The liquidation decision should be taken by the higher authority in the PLO leadership. You should know that most of the liquidations were carried out by Fatah groups. The people who largely carry out the liquidations rightly or wrongly are from Fatah and Hamas. We, on our part, are trying to straighten out this matter. At the initiative of the Palestinian People's Party, the former Communist Party, and the Fatah Movement, large popular conferences were held last month to try to stop the negativeness in the intifadah and to lay down controls. There was an unexpected popular rally in support of the initiative. A conference was held in Jabaliya and was attended by 20,000-25,000 citizens. They all shouted against the negativeness and the violations in the intifadah. We should note that none of us is more concerned than the masses about the intifadah. And from the Jabaliya camp, where the conference was held, the initifada started.

Hamas, however, condemned these conferences and stood against them from the beginning. They launched a large-scale campaign against these popular conferences and issued several statements. Hundreds of threats were directed from Hamas to Fatah cadres. I have the Hamas statements in which these threats were made.

['Aknan] Has Hamas acknowledged the statements?
[Al-Barguthi] Yes, of course.

['Aknan] Maybe they are false.
[Al-Barguthi] No, no. We know the difference. We hope that Hamas will denounce this. The memorandum was addressed against a number of Fatah's prominent cadres, and they were mentioned by name. Some of them were not known to the occupation authorities, since they have not been jailed so far. This process had a very clear security difference. It also revealed a number of leading cadres of Fatah. At the same time, the Hamas elements carried out a very provocative act, which made things worse. They apprehended two suspect people—they thought these people were suspect—and shot them. They killed them in front of the house of a Fatah leader, whose name is Tawfiq Abu-Khusah. He was the one who spoke for Fatah at popular conferences and called for stopping and regulating the phenomenon of liquidation. One of the people killed was blind and dumb. He used to sell frames in Gaza. His family called for issuing a statement. The man was blind and dumb, so why did they kill him? After killing the two, they wrote over their bodies that this was a gift from Hamas to Tawfiq Abu-Khusah and that this was a warning to Fatah not to call for stopping liquidations. We have also discovered Hamas' secret instructions to its members against the striking forces, Fatah, and the negotiating delegation.

['Aknan] Has Hamas not denied this?
[Al-Barghuthi] I do not know.

['Aknan] Could it be that the instructions were issued by the enemy?
[Al-Barghuthi] There is no need to blame everything on the enemy, not because of the enemy's good faith, but because they are like this. One of Hamas' misdeeds is that its groups used to attack some Fatah groups and positions and then seek shelter in mosques, which has naturally caused discontent. The latest clashes erupted due to a pamphlet Hamas posted on the door of Bani Suhaylah mosque attacking Fatah. A youth tore up the pamphlet and people began to shout. Most people in the mosque were from Hamas. They beat Fatah youths. Afterward, a group of Fatah youths came and attacked those from Hamas; hence, events began to develop.

['Aknan] What is the story behind the attack on the al-Raqab family funeral, during which Fatah members opened fire?
[Al-Barghuthi] The basis is what happened at the beginning. I want to talk about the document of honor. It was issued on 7 June 1992. It was approved and later denounced. The first denunciation came from Cyprus and the next from Amman. We believe some circles in Hamas known for their Arab links stood against the document of honor and canceled it.

['Aknan] Who are these circles?
[Al-Barghuthi] Leaders in the Hamas Movement or the Muslim Brotherhood outside Palestine. These circles are not concerned with reaching an agreement between Hamas and Fatah. It is hard to answer this question clearly and frankly. But I believe that the document of honor ends many disputes and paves the way for a responsible and serious dialogue that would allow Hamas to join the PLO. Some circles reject such an agreement. They also do not want Hamas to join the PLO.

['Aknan] Muslim Brotherhood circles?
[Al-Barghuthi] Yes, they want it outside the PLO. They also want Hamas to become an alternative to the PLO. [passage omitted]

['Aknan] Dialogues have been held between Hamas and the PLO. But it seems that dialogues are occasional. Why is such dialogue not continuous?
[Al-Barghuthi] Since the beginning of the intifadah, Fatah has spared no effort to hold contacts and listen to Islamic and Hamas leaders. Meetings were held in Sanaa and Khartoum. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and brother Ibrahim Ghawshah were present. The meetings were supported by the controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt. Contacts were held with the Muslim Brotherhood leadership and deputies in Jordan, who initiated such contacts.

Three months ago, a meeting was held between Fatah and Hamas following the Tulkarm incidents. Hamas hosted that meeting, which I attended. We agreed to continue dialogue until we reach an agreement. But there was insistence on some issues that we do not deem substantial. We agree on field action and on all that is related to the occupied territory and sparing our people any disputes. We agree on the intifadah but not on other issues, such as the demand to restructure the Palestinian people's organizations. Hamas has no right to call for that after 25 years of Palestinian struggle. We welcome Hamas as a nationalist faction in the arena of Palestinian struggle. Moreover, activating the Islamic body within the Palestinian people is a major accomplishment. We have no sensitivities. But achievements and gains have been scored for the Palestinian cause by forces that struggled and offered sacrifices and thousands of martyrs and tens of thousands of prisoners; therefore, Hamas should not demand that the leadership of the Palestinian people be divided in such a manner. There are structures called the PLO, Palestine National Council, Central Council, and Executive Committee through which Hamas can participate.

If they do not want to participate in the PLO, at least let us agree on the intifadah and not engage in clashes and fighting. Let us spare our people the woes of internecine fighting, nothing more nothing less. [passage omitted]

['Aknan] We thank God that, with His mercy, the two sides signed an agreement. But we ask whether this is a truce or a final and permanent agreement. Do you not believe that it is necessary to find a new formula for dealing between both parties to avoid bloodshed and to maintain unity through acknowledging the legitimacy of others and their right to opposition? How do you envisage such a thing can be achieved?

[Al-Barghuthi] We believe that the agreement falls short of what is required and does not remove the need for a final agreement with Hamas. However, such an agreement should be reached with leaders representing Hamas so that it can be binding to Hamas. Therefore, a committee is supposed to be set up by Hamas to hold a dialogue with the PLO and Fatah. Such a dialogue should be based on Hamas' agreement to join the PLO, spare the intifadah any disputes, and guarantee Hamas' right to present its viewpoint politically.

['Aknan] But Hamas indicates that the PLO wants an end to the intifadah before the elections in November?

[Al-Barghuthi] Such charges feed the extent of ill will that we have been seeing. The intifadah came from the Palestinian people; nobody can halt it. We believe that the intifadah should be continued and escalated.

['Aknan] Do you believe that it is possible to hold elections while the intifadah is continuing?

[AL-Barghuthi] It is possible to hold elections while the intifadah is continuing.

['Aknan] Does your opinion represent Fatah?

[Al-Barghuthi] Yes, until it is proved otherwise.

Analysis Predicts Hamas-Fatah 'Political Showdown'

JN1407075092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 92 pp 1, 2

["News Analysis" by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni: "Fatah-Hamas Showdown in Making"]

[Text] Despite an agreement to end violent clashes between the mainstream Palestinian Fatah group and the Islamist opposition movement Hamas, the two sides are bracing themselves for a political showdown, especially if the new Israeli government approves elections for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Fatah, which leads the proponents of peace talks with Israel, is already acting as if it is preparing the ground for the elections to ensure the dominance of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Although Hamas, the strongest opposition movement to the peace process, has not declared its position on such elections, the Islamic group is expected to contest Fatah's influence either by taking part in the polls or boycotting it.

But even if the peace talks. which are supposed to resume next month in Rome, do not lead to elections—at least before the end of this year—competition between Fatah and Hamas is expected to intensify as the Israeli and Palestinian sides get down to discussing autonomy arrangements in the occupied territories.

Judging from contacts with officials from the two groups, both sides consider the next months as crucial to the ongoing power struggle between the supporters and opponents of the peace process.

"The recent clashes, as tragic as they were, were an indicator of the growing opposition to the peace talks," said Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas spokesman in Amman.

Mr. Ghawshah believes that this opposition will expand as the peace talks resume while Fatah officials argue that a breakthrough in the process, which, in their view, is possible, will boost the PLO leadership's status in the occupied territories.

"Hamas has already suffered setback in the elections (of professional organisations) in the occupied territories," pointed out Marwan Barghuti, a Fatah official who was deported by the Israeli authorities after the eruption of the Palestinian uprising less than five years ago.

Some Fatah officials who are closely associated with the intifada leadership argue that the majority of the Palestinians will welcome any breakthrough that will alleviate their suffering and will not follow Hamas.

They are concerned, however, that Hamas is likely to make gains if there is a setback in the peace process, but believe that the fundamentalist group would not be able to outbid the PLO leadership of the Palestinian people.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Ghawshah insisted that Hamas had no intention of replacing or even marginalising the PLO.

"Such goals are not part of the movement's tactical or strategic objectives," he said implying that at least for the time being Hamas will seek to avert a bone-breaking confrontation with Fatah.

Mr. Ghawshah implied that the Islamic movement's aim was not to undermine the PLO but to challenge the assumption that the peace talks have a national Palestinian consensus.

Since its formal inception, Hamas has refused to join the PLO and has persistently demanded that the Organisation drop peace talks with Israel.

Although Hamas has not changed its position, Mr. Ghawshah does not suggest that talks with Israel be dropped but rather questions Palestinian popular support for the negotiations.

"We would like to take part in the PLO on a democratic basis," he said. "It means that the PLO's platform should be based on the Palestinian people's choice."

Fatah officials counter that so far the popular mood in the occupied territories remains in support of the peace talks and will continue to be so. "Even Hamas supporters will not reject a settlement that will alleviate their suffering if the talks can lead to an Israeli withdrawal from at least the populated areas," one Fatah official argued.

Although there is significant opposition to the peace talks inside the Fatah movement and leadership, it seems that proponents remain dominant in the occupied territories.

Supportors of the peace process pin hope on the leftist part of the new Israeli government to pressure Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to authorise Palestinian elections and a partial Israeli withdrawal.

They deny Hamas accusations that the peace camp within Fatah favours ending the intifada in the hope of promoting Israeli concessions.

These doubts are also expressed by the leftist groups that oppose the peace talks.

According to Mr. Ghawshah, while some proponents of the peace process are ready to sacrifice the intifada for the peace talks, others are at least interested in maintaining the intifada as "a bargaining chip" at a later stage of the process.

Palestinian leftist groups have tried to avoid a broader division along the Hamas-Fatah line during the recent clashes.

These groups, it seems, were alarmed that the escalation of violence between the two strong rivals could unleash

uncontrollable chaos that will undermine the Palestinian negotiating position or/and the PLO status.

Furthermore, leftist groups stand to lose if the conflict boosted Hamas. For while a long-term alliance, albeit a turbulant one, is possible with Fatah, it is very difficult to seek such a pact with Hamas.

Leftist groups which oppose the peace process forged a tactical alliance with Hamas immediately after the beginning of the peace talks last October. But during the recent fighting the groups mediated between the two sides and made it clear that they could not endorse any action that will undermine the PLO. In other words, the leftist groups' commitment to the PLO overweighed their eagerness to rally a popular front against the peace talks.

Palestinian analysts believe that Fatah and Hamas now realise their limitation and strength.

While Hamas is now aware that an outright challenge of PLO authority could backfire, the Fatah leadership is aware that Hamas is not easy to be cut down to size. "competition has to take other peaceful forms unless the two sides are ready to indulge in a selfdestructive struggle," said an independent PLO official.

'Arafat Meets With Egypt's Mubarak 12 Jul

LD1407083192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Palestinian president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, met privately this morning with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the Muntazah Palace in Alexandria and were later joined by members of the Palestinian and the Egyptian delegations.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas and exchanged views, advice, and coordination for the coming phase. They also discussed the need to build Arab solidarity to face the challenges; to thwart maneuvers by the Rabin government; and to work for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region that basically provides for the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and restoring their rights.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Brother Abdullah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the PLO spokesman; Brother Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Cairo; and Brother Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the FATAH Movement's Cairo representative.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by the first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry who is also the director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs.

'Arafat Receives Message From PRC President

LD1407165292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Brother leader president Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Palestinian president, received an important message from PRC President Yang Shangkun this morning. The message was delivered when brother president Abu 'Ammar met with the Chinese ambassador at the Palestinian leadership headquarters in Tunisia.

Brother president leader Abu 'Ammar entrusted the ambassador with a message for the Chinese president, in which he expresses his and the Palestinian people's thanks for China's positions supporting our people's struggle for regaining their right to return, to self-determination, and for establishing their independent state under the PLO's leadership.

'Arafat Promises Loan to Iraq's Saddam Husayn

NC1607185692 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 13 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources stated that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat recently promised Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn a long-term loan of between $500 million and $1 billion. The loan would reportedly assist Iraq in confronting the pressure and difficulties to which it is subjected both at home and abroad. Saddam sent a written message to 'Arafat explaining these difficulties. Palestinian Ambassador to Iraq 'Azzam al-Ahmad gave 'Arafat the message.

EC Grants $20 Million to Loan Institutions

TA1007164292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 10 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akir]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—The EC signed an agreement last night with four loan institutions in the occupied territories according to which the EC will grant 15 million European Currency Units [ECU], about $20 million, to those institutions. The agreement was signed in a ceremony at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem by Thomas Dupla, the EC representative in the occupied territories, and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations. The agreement was also signed by the heads of the four loan institutions: The Economic Development Corporation; the Arab Loan and Development Company; the Arab Technical Company; and the United Agricultural Company.

It is worth noting that the European aid to the loan institutions is part of the 60 million ECU, or $80 million, of aid the EC allocated to the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Oman Asked To Mediate PLO, Gulf States Split

NC1007164392 Paris AFP in English 1542 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 10 (AFP)—The cash-strapped Palestine Liberation Organisation has asked Oman to mediate in the organisation's split with Gulf states which cut off funding after the Gulf crisis, PLO sources said Friday.

Wealthy Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members accused the PLO, Jordan and other Arab states of supporting Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and halted aid to them at a time when they were suffering from serious financial problems.

The PLO sources said a high-ranking PLO delegation visited Muscat last week and asked the Omanis to help in ending the rift that is costing the guerrilla organisation more than 150 million dollars a year.

The sources, based in the Gulf, confirmed a report by the United Arab Emirates magazine AL-SHURUQ that the visit to Oman by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's aide, Mahmud 'Abbas, was for that purpose.

"The PLO wants to forget the past and open a new chapter in its relations with Gulf countries," one source told AFP. "We feel that the only country that can mediate between them is Oman."

Oman has mediated between several countries in the region given its strong links with most of them. It has sought to repair Iran's ties with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, while King Husayn of Jordan, also at odds with Gulf nations, visited Muscat early this year to seek help in ending the rift.

The PLO was the worst hit by the boycott as it has relied heavily on the GCC for its income. Of the nearly two billion dollars it has received since 1978, more than 80 percent came from the GCC.

Saudi Arabia alone provided more than 100 million dollars a year, while about 70 million dollars came from Kuwait, the UAE and the remaining GCC members Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.

Apart from the official aid, the PLO had received nearly 50 million dollars a year from a five percent tax imposed by GCC governments on Palestinians working in the Gulf. Funds from this tax have not stopped but have sharply declined after Kuwait expelled more than 300,000 Palestinians.

"Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the PLO has not received any money from the GCC governments," a PLO source said.

The halt of aid has forced the PLO to take austerity measures, shelving unnecessary projects, closing some of its institutions, cutting staff and slashing salaries to its 50,000 fighters and civilians by up to 30 percent. It has also tried to boost its income.

"The PLO has suffered from financial difficulties for several years," a PLO source said. "But the situation now is serious and will continue to deteriorate unless Gulf states resume their assistance."

According to the sources, the PLO's spending stood at around 250 million dollars a year before the Gulf war while revenues were about 200 million dollars. That left a persistent deficit of nearly 50 million dollars.

Such a deficit likely increased sharply after the halt of Gulf aid and the sources said the shortage of funds had adversely affected a Palestinian (?uprising) in the occupied West Bank and Gaza as it was mainly financed by the PLO.

A report by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund said remittances from Palestinians working in the oil-rich Gulf, which account for more than one third of income, plummeted by 350 million dollars in the nine months that followed the Iraqi invasion.

The return of Palestinians from Kuwait, which hosted more than half the 700,000 Palestinians in the Gulf before the war, pushed up unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza to 29 percent and it is expected to increase to 40 percent at the end of this year, the report said.

Egypt

Rabin-Mubarak Summit Expected 'End of Next Week'

NC1707055692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM newspaper reports that President Husni Mubarak is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin before the end of next week in the first Egyptian-Israeli summit in six years.

The paper says this summit will address ways of advancing the peace process in the region and realizing just and permanent solutions to the Palestinian question. It also will address the need for a speedy Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, as well as settling the situation on the Lebanese-Israeli front.

Cairo Seeks Greater Peace Role

NC1607122192 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, July 16 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will visit Egypt at the end of next week for talks with President Husni Mubarak, an official source said Friday. An official invitation was to be sent via diplomatic channels, the source added.

Rabin's office in Jerusalem said Thursday that the new Israeli prime minister was awaiting an invitation to travel to Cairo.

The trip, Egyptian and Israeli officials said, was part of efforts to revive the stalled Middle East peace process following Rabin's offer to visit Arab capitals and invite Arab heads of state to Jerusalem for peace talks.

Egyptian presidential spokesman Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im told AFP a meeting between Rabin and Mubarak would also examine the prospects for a bigger role for Egypt in the peace process.

The two leaders would discuss the possibilities of bringing Egypt into bilateral Arab-Israeli talks, from which it has so far been excluded since it already has a peace treaty with Israel.

Rabin made similar remarks Wednesday on Israeli television: "There are countries such as Egypt and the United States that can be associated with the bilateral negotiations so as to make the parties' positions more flexible."

Rabin's visit to Cairo would be the first by an Israeli prime minister since Shimon Peres made the trip in 1986. Peres is currently foreign minister in the Rabin government.

The announcement came as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was due back in the region Sunday to discuss the future stages of the peace process with the leaders of Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon and to meet Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"Unlike former Israeli prime minister Yitzhaq Shamir who had not taken positive initiatives like this, Mr. Rabin has shown, from the start, his readiness to help achieve progress in the peace process," Moneim said.

He also praised Israel's announcement of a freeze on settlements in the occupied territories.

'Appropriate Climate' Seen

NC1607105492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, director of the Presidential Press Office, has commented on a report broadcast by Israeli radio today that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet with President Mubarak in Cairo at the end of next week. He said that President Mubarak has repeatedly affirmed his willingness to meet with the Israeli prime minister if such a meeting will produce positive results that are in harmony with regional expectations. He noted that former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was not responsive in this regard, and consequently no meeting was held.

'Abd-al-Mun'im told MENA: The moment Yitzhaq Rabin assumed his post, he announced serious measures to give impetus to the peace process. In his address to the Knesset, he took care to emphasize Israel's need for Egyptian assistance in establishing peace and noted that Israel wishes to develop its relations with Egypt and Mubarak.

'Abd-al-Mun'im pointed out that a few hours ago, Rabin's government announced a freeze on all building contracts in the West Bank and Gaza. This is a serious measure that helps to create an appropriate climate for holding this important meeting between Mubarak and Rabin.

He concluded his statement to MENA by saying that with the expected arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Baker in the region in the next few days, much movement toward peace may take place.

Rabin Words 'Mainly Optimistic'

NC1607153392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rabin, Words, and Deeds," AL-AKHBAR writes today: Since the Israeli Labor Party won the recent parliamentary elections, Yitzhaq Rabin has been making numerous statements. Although some

of these statements suggest positions somewhat similar to the hardline stances of Yitzhaq Shamir, the Likud leader and former prime minister, Rabin's announcements have so far been mainly optimistic. Time and deeds will show how sincere the new head of government in Tel Aviv really is. Rabin can reinforce confidence in his promise to establish a real peace, not only with the Palestinians but with all the Arabs, and his willingness to visit Arab capitals if he backs his statements with deeds.

The paper notes that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will begin a new Middle East tour in two days to revive the peace process following the new Israeli Government. Rabin's talks with Baker will be another indication of how willing he really is to proceed along the path of peace.

The paper says: There have been reports recently that Rabin will repeal the law, enacted under the Likud government, that makes all contact with the PLO illegal. It was on the basis of this unparalleled and bizarre law that the members of the Palestinian negotiating team were interrogated.

The paper adds: The peace talks began in Madrid about nine months ago but have made no progress yet. We hope that Shamir's stalling maneuvers and his attempts to rid the negotiations of any real significance will not be repeated now. This is a well-known ploy that we hope Rabin will not use after the peace talks are resumed in Rome.

Rabin Remarks 'Extremely Important'

NC1607134592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Momentous Historical Reconciliation Needed Between Israel and the Arabs"]

[Text] In the cable President Mubarak sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, which contained extremely important remarks, the president affirmed that now is the time for establishing just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and achieving a momentous, historic reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel. With these extremely important words, the president affirmed Egypt's eagerness to establish the kind of peace which will achieve stability and prosperity for all the peoples and states in the region. Through peace, security can be attained by all the parties to the chronic crisis in the Middle East.

The victory of the Israeli Labor Party is the best indication that the Israeli voter has realized this fact, particularly the young voters who tipped the balance in favor of Rabin and the Labor Party in these elections. A broad segment of the youth realize the dangers of violence and the implications of counter-violence in the absence of security and stability. In other words, these youth see a better future under peace, and without this hope, there will be no stability and no devotion to building the future except away from violence and bloodshed.

In his cable to Rabin on assuming the premiership of the new government, President Mubarak emphasized that peace is the only option that can end the problems of the entire region, and that with the achievement of peace, all the high walls that still exist between Israel and most of the Arab states will tumble down and disappear, because peace is taking care of this historic task. With the achievement of peace, a momentous, historic reconciliation will be realized between the Arabs and Israel, as President Mubarak noted.

There are a number of points on which we base our optimism regarding Rabin's assumption of the premiership of the new coalition government, which is composed of a number of parties and small movements that have their own aspirations for peace. These are:

1. In his important speech to the Israeli Knesset, Rabin expressed views that were fundamentally different than those of Shamir and the Likud. We did not hear the slogan of "peace in return for peace," and he did not reject the principle of "land for peace." Shamir had insisted that no occupied Arab territories would be given up, and that all these territories are Israel's property. While Rabin did talk about these territories, he did not announce that he would insist on keeping all the occupied Arab territories. He noted that some of them will be kept because of Israeli security needs. While we disagree with him, we think that Rabin made such a remark in order not to shock the extremist right at the outset of his tasks as prime minister of the new government.

2. Rabin's view of the Palestinian intifadah is totally different from that of his predecessor Shamir, who always maintained that this intifadah should be suppressed by force. He had not been able to achieve this during his term in office. Rabin dealt with this issue differently. He affirmed that the intifadah cannot be checked by military force, and that there are solutions through which it would be possible to contain the intifadah. The solutions were dialogue and negotiations to achieve a solution. Rabin's view is shared by his deputy and foreign minister, Shim'on Peres. Peres, the executer of Israeli foreign policy in the Rabin government, was the first Israeli leader to demand that an Arab-Israeli peace conference be held to end the Middle East conflict. Shamir was totally against this, and he unwillingly participated in the Madrid peace conference.

3. Most of the small parties and political movements allied with the Labor Party, which ensure the Rabin government's majority in the Knesset, completely contradict the approach of the small, extremist, rightist parties which entered into a coalition with the Likud in the Shamir government. There is clear evidence that Rabin's coalition government includes political forces, led by Meretz, that reject the policy of force against the Palestinians and demand that the ban on dialogue with the Palestinians and the PLO be lifted. They also

demand an end to building Jewish settlements, because they constitute a large obstacle to peace. Meretz, which tips the balance in favor of the present government coalition in the Knesset, also supports the establishment of a Palestinian state. For this reason, the influence of this movement inside the government and Knesset will greatly affect steering the government toward peace, especially as the Rabin government is aware that the withdrawal of Meretz will make it lose its majority in the Knesset. Therefore, the new Israeli prime minister takes this point into account, because it affects his government's continued presence in office.

4. Rabin's call for summit meetings with a number of Arab leaders connected with the problems of the occupied territories ostensibly means immediate readiness to activate the peace process. In fact, it places the Arab parties in a position in which they cannot reject this initiative, provided Rabin links this call with a subsequent initiative, declaring his readiness to renounce the Israeli occupied territories of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon. If such a step takes place, the Israeli-Arab summit meetings could deal with measures to maintain security and stability in all the states in the region and could also lead the region into an important historic stage to achieve a momentous reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel, to which President Mubarak referred in his cable to Rabin.

Great hopes are pinned on the Rabin government's credibility. We as Arabs must reinforce these hopes and work for them because they realize our peace strategy. The Israeli party which assumed the responsibility must participate in the realization of these great hopes in order to achieve the historic reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel.

Bush Nuclear Nonproliferation 'Initiative' Hailed

NC1607141592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1118 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary, has said that Egypt welcomes U.S. President George Bush's new initiative on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms. Bush sent a letter to President Mubarak on 13 July saying that he intended to make the new initiative. Dr. al-Baz pointed out that the new U.S. overture is in full accord with President Mubarak's 8 April 1990 initiative. The new initiative is said to be a step forward from Bush's May 1991 initiative because it emphasizes preventing the proliferation of nuclear arms and gives the United Nations and the Security Council a role in the issue. In addition, it enhances the system of guarantees, which many consider to be a basic step for widening the signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The initiative highlights the international consensus that nuclear arms are the most dangerous type of weapons of mass destruction.

Egypt hopes that this new initiative will prompt all countries that have not joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to consider joining it as soon as possible as a confidence-building step on the regional and international levels. In doing so, they will help achieve the goal of eliminating all weapons of mass destruction, which is the essence of President Bush's initiative.

Dr. al-Baz stressed that Egypt intends to play an active and effective role in the peace process because it believes that a comprehensive and just peace is the central issue in the Middle East. In addition, it believes that the future of all countries in the region hinges on the success of the conference in reaching an acceptable formula for coexistence and cooperation between the Arabs and Israelis. He said that Egypt welcomes the indications that Israel intends to give a new boost to the peace negotiations. He said that Egypt hopes that the Israeli approach will be comprehensive; that Israel will exert genuine efforts with all Arab parties without exception; and that Israel will take confidence-building measures; particularly in the occupied territories.

'Official' Source Views Baker Regional Tour

NC1607123892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—An official Egyptian source has stated that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East tour, due to begin on Sunday, has a special significance illustrated by the fact that the United States regards the results of the Israeli elections and the coming to power of the coalition formed by Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin as a new and serious starting point for more rapid resumption of the peace process. Therefore, Baker's tour is expected to resolve the existing differences and overcome the difficulties that faced the bilateral talks until just before the Israeli elections.

The source added that if the United States succeeds in exploiting this opportunity to equip the bilateral talks with a new mechanism which can guarantee that they will continue, make progress, and deal with the problems confronting them, this will be considered a major U.S. achievement.

Concluding his statement, the Egyptian source said: Egypt can play an effective role in the coming stage in view of its relations with Israel. Egypt also enjoys the confidence of the Arabs in view of its pan-Arab affiliation and its long history of struggle to retrieve Arab and Palestinian rights. The source stressed the importance of achieving Arab coordination to confront the requirements of the coming stage.

It is known that James Baker will arrive in Cairo on Wednesday [22 July] on a short visit as part of his tour of a number of countries in the region. President Mubarak will hold talks with the U.S. secretary of state on the latest developments in the Middle East peace issue and means of encouraging a peaceful settlement in light of

the outcome of Secretary Baker's tour of the region and the existence of a new government in Israel.

Sidqi Views Meeting With Visiting AID Official

NC1707150592 Cairo MENA in English 1125 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, July 17 (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said following his meeting with visiting U.S. AID Director General [as received] Ronald Roskens today that the American official asserted the U.S. keenness not to cut the volume of its aid to Egypt for the year 1992/1993 which amounts to 2.5 billion dollars, contrary to its policy to trim its aid to most of the other countries. The 2.5 billions are extended to Egypt for economic and military assistance.

Dr. Sidqi said that the economic aid will be used in financing development projects and importing and production requirements. A total sum of 115 million dollars will be used in boosting the Egyptian balance of payment, he added.

The prime minister said that part of the American aid to Egypt is offered within the framework of the law on American agricultural crop which extends long and easy-term loans to be repaid over 30 years with a seven-year-period of grace and between 2 percent and 3 percent interest. The loans will be used by Egypt in importing American wheat worth 170 million dollars.

Dr. Sidqi said that he discussed with Roskens bilateral relations, the latest regional and international developments, peace efforts, and several other issues of mutual interest.

Talks Between Extremists, Governorate Deadlocked

NC1607192492 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 8 Jul 92 pp 1, 9

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[Excerpt] Negotiations between the extremist groups and executive and legislative leaders have reached a dead end. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mushin Salih, chairman of the local council in Asyut Governorate, has said that authorities are demanding that all those involved in the recent incidents surrender; the Islamic Group, on the other hand, is refusing to turn over any accused. In addition, it is demanding that the security forces in Dayrut be reduced and the group's leaders and members be released.

A source close to the Islamic Group told AL-AHALI that the group will use violence to defend itself against the security forces. He said because the authorities resorted to armed confrontation and physical liquidation, we must die with weapons in our arms instead of dying after surrendering, as happened in Asyut and Damietta.

The group claimed responsibility for killing 14 Christians in Sinbu and Manshiyyat Nasir and issued a statement saying that it killed Dr. Faraj Fawdah. The statement added that the group will continue to confront violence with violence and bullets with bullets. The group, however, denied responsibility for the recent attacks on police and Christians. A source close to the group said that ordinary citizens carried out these acts to avenge the killing of relatives during the recent police searches and sweeps. The source stressed that the group's leaders left Dayrut following the clash between the police and the group in which 'Arafah Darwsish, one of the group's leaders, was killed. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Adresses Assembly on Danger of Terrorists

NC1607183892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—The People's Assembly resumed its meeting this afternoon under Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. The assembly is meeting to complete debates on the draft law amending certain provisions of the penal and criminal procedures laws and other laws to combat acts of terrorism and violence. A number of articles have been ratified, including a ruling banning perpetrators of terrorist crimes from living in certain places and from assembling in specific areas. The duration of these measures will not exceed five years. Anyone violating the ban will be imprisoned for at least six months.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that the extremist and terrorist groups pose great danger. He told the assembly this afternoon that these extremists are trying to topple the regime, suspend the Constitution, destroy the economy, and strike at tourism. He noted that the terrorists are well organized and commit abnormal crimes. He noted that the amendment to the penal and criminal procedures law is better than the laws on combating terrorism in other countries, including Britain, Germany, Spain, and Italy. He stressed that this amendment is in line with the provisions of the Constitution.

The assembly debated the draft law on terrorism at length during their session. The session was adjourned and the assembly will meet again this evening to complete the debate.

Students Urged To Fight Terrorism

NC1607180892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 16 Jul (MENA)—Minister of Awqaf Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub told Alexandria University students today that there is no sectarian sedition in Egypt and that the nation is united. He said that the Egyptian people have never liked violence, terrorism, or bloodshed; we have been characterized, he said, by love, tolerance, and brotherhood.

Dr. Mahjub conveyed to the students President Husni Mubarak's pride of and appreciation for Alexandria University, noting that the president had asked him to

place the ministry's resources at the university's disposal. He stressed that the government cares for pious people because piety means affiliation, love, and peace. He said that the government enacts firm laws to protect religious people and to establish national security and stability.

Dr. Mahjub appealed to Egypt's religious youth to be united during this important stage through which the country is currently passing. Some groups, he said, want to fragment us. He urged them to stand against these intruders and foil their schemes. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mahjub stressed that everyone is free to think as he wants; however, the government will confront those who try to impose their views on others. He said that the government knows the difference between religious people and terrorists and killers. We are at peace with religious people, he said, adding: The government will fight the terrorists to protect our society. He appealed to all terrorists to reconsider their course and open a new leaf. He said we are waiting for them because we fear for them and because Islam is a religion of tolerance. [passage omitted]

NDP Cairo Secretariat Re-Nominates Mubarak

NC1607100292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The National Democratic Party's [NDP] Cairo Secretariat has nominated President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for a third term as head of state and leader of the majority party.

NDP Cairo Secretary Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji, who reported the news, added that the NDP's members and leaders in the capital are nominating Mubarak for a third term as a supreme symbol of the homeland, head of state, NDP leader, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and guardian of national unity.

Libya

Egypt's al-Baz Arrives in Tripoli 16 Jul

NC1607143192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1348 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a short visit to Libya. He is scheduled to hold talks with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary for external liaison and international cooperation, and other Libyan officials as part of the continuing contacts between Egypt and Libya to discuss bilateral relations and the crisis between Libya and the West.

Al-Baz arrived in Tobruk by land via Sidi Barrani and there boarded a private plane to Tripoli, where he was received by Ambassador Mustafa al-Shadhili, head of the Egyptian relations bureau, senior officials from the Department of External Liaison and International Cooperation, and other Libyan officials.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Chadian Military Leader

LD1707073392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Jul (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] today received Major Mahamat Ali Abdallah, commander in chief of the Chadian Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him, which is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Karoui Visits Turkey

WA1707151892

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Karoui to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Turkish Prime Minister Demirel, please see the Turkey section of the 15 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Western Sahara

Polisario Submits New Proposals on Referendum

LD1707094892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] has submitted new proposals to the UN secretary general which focus on some of the criteria regarding those who are qualified to vote in the referendum on self-determination.

The proposals concern people who are directly related to those included in the census conducted by the Spanish administration during its occupation of the Western Sahara. The proposals include all those who are able to prove their presence in the region during that occupation, according Ahmed Boukhari, a Polisario representative. He added that the proposals were submitted on 25 June and that they are essential to get the UN peace plan out of a crisis. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister Warns of Iraqi 'Hostile Intentions'

LD1607192992 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait's Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub today affirmed that the Iraqi regime is still up to its old ways of deceiving the world public opinion, saying that Baghdad's letter to the UN chief on boycotting the borders committee meeting with Kuwait was the latest in this regard. Al-Ya'qub said that this letter is yet a clear evidence of Iraq's hostile intentions and its refusal to comply with the Security Council resolutions and decisions taken by the UN border demarcation commission.

He noted that the border commission emerged as part of the Security Council resolutions which Iraq agreed to implement in full following its defeat by the allies and its withdrawal from Kuwait.

Al-Ya'qub added that the Security Council and all peace-loving powers are urged to stand firm against Iraq's attempts to hinder the implementation of international resolutions.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn alleged in his letter to Ghali that the continued UN siege on his country negates the legal ground of the Security Council resolutions, thus his government is fully entitled to take any action it deems fit towards them.

Al-Ya'qub indicated that the latest Iraqi allegations are a signal that the Baghdad regime intends to violate the UN resolutions, urging the Security Council to be alert to these tactics which have become a trait of this regime.

Citizen Sentenced To Die for Iraqi Collaboration

LD1507211292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1833 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The state security court has sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to death after being convicted of providing the Iraqi occupation force during its occupation of Kuwait with leads to members of the Kuwaiti resistance that led to the arrest, torture, and execution of two of them at the hands of the Iraqi intelligence services.

The state security prosecution had charged the defendent Khalifa A., who used to work with the Kuwaiti Air Force, of deliberately assisting the Iraqi forces during the occupation, and of taking measures that demoralized citizens by giving leads to a group of Kuwaiti resistance, including the two martyrs Jasim 'Isa and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Fahd.

On the other hand, the state security court has postponed two cases concerning five persons accused of collaboration with the Iraqi occupation authorities. [passage omitted including indistinct passage]

Paper Welcomes Rabin's 'Latest Initiative'

LD1607111492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Jul (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH today welcomes the latest initiative of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and calls for it be accepted immediately in order to embarrass Rabin and put him to the real test.

In an editorial by its chief editor, the paper expresses its belief that the new Israeli initiative carries within it broader hopes for a comprehensive peace than did the former Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's initiative in 1977.

It notes that Rabin's initiative comes in a climate that is conducive to peace, with the superpowers themselves sponsoring it, and that the recent world changes do not allow for procrastination and arguments.

Yitzhaq Rabin has called on Arab leaders to visit Jerusalem and address the Knesset, and has said he is willing to go to their capitals.

Saudi Arabia

Press Analyzes Peace Prospects, Baker Visit

LD1607110792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0330 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 16 Jul (SPA)—[passage omitted] Under the headline "Opportunities for Peace Will Not Be Repeated," AL-'UKAZ says U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's new tour to the Middle East to give impetus to the peace process comes amid political circumstances that are completely different from those under which previous tours were made. It adds that the most significant difference during this tour is that the Labor Party has taken power in Israel after the hardline and confrontational Shamir government. This change in Israeli politics is very significant, notwithstanding the fact that some people have expressed exaggerated reservations about it. It said that the slogans raised by Rabin and his speech in the Knesset after the formation of his government focused on Israel's readiness for serious efforts to facilitate the success of the Middle East peace negotiations.

The paper points out that even if the main aim of Baker's tour is to give impetus to the peace process, he has other aims, notably to help President Bush in an election campaign which he is in no way assured of winning comfortably.

The paper remarks that the Palestinian side, being the principal side in the peace process, has demonstrated signs of reasonable flexibility in negotiating with Israel...and has abandoned its past insistence on getting Israel as a whole [Isra'il kulluha] out of the occupied territories.

Present thinking centers on who is to participate in talks on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people within an international framework in which the rights of all sides were recognized.

The paper praises the mission entrusted by the U.S. President to his secretary of state in the Middle East, and describes it as important for pushing the peace process forward, which is what has been stressed in political circles. The paper says that the mission comes in the wake of Yitzhaq Rabin's assumption of his post as prime minister in Israel, as successor to Yitzhaq Shamir.

The paper says the Israeli prime minister has expressed his readiness to visit Arab capitals and to receive Arab leaders in Israel in order to propel the peace process forward. However, the Arab sides participating in the peace negotiations require evidence of his good intentions, particularly since he believes that the Jerusalem issue is not negotiable as part of the peace process.

The paper concludes that the forthcoming U.S. tour will ascertain the extent of the Israeli Government's readiness to accept the U.S. initiative concerning land for peace, a withdrawal from Arab territories, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the establishment of peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

AL-JAZIRAH says peace efforts in the Middle East region have resumed again after a period of stagnation due to the Israeli elections. It points out that the U.S. Administration has started to make moves to resume its efforts to establish peace and resolve the long historical conflict between the Arabs and Israel.

The paper also remarks on U.S. President Bush's decision to send Secretary of State Baker to the region to reactivate his mission and prepare the two sides for for talks. He is scheduled to arrive in Israel on Sunday [19 July].

It says that with the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state and the assumption of power by an Israeli Labor Government, there are increasing hopes in Arab and international political circles that Baker's efforts to prepare for new rounds of serious and productive talks will succeed. [passage omitted]

Fijian UN Soldier Shot Dead in Dahuk

BK1707095692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A United Nations soldier from Fiji has been shot dead in northern Iraq. United Nations statement says the Fijian soldier, who was identified as M. R. Dakia, was shot in the head as he slept in the town of Dahuk.

A spokesman for the UN secretary general Butrus Butrus-Ghali expressed shock at what he described as an appalling act and an investigation has been opened.

The news agency AFP quotes diplomatic sources as saying the killing by an unidentified assailant could heighten tension between Iraq and the UN, which are deadlocked over Iraq's refusal to grant UN weapons inspectors access to the Baghdad Agricultural Ministry.

A total of 400 UN peacekeeping troops are being deployed in Iraqi Kurdistan in the north of the country and in the Shiite region of the south since the end of the Gulf war.

They are charged with protecting the Kurdish and Shiite minorities as well as the 700 UN civilian personnels working in Iraq.

Labor Federation Denounces Actions of UN Team

NC1207210192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—The General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions has denounced the provocative actions of the UN inspection team and its cordoning off of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry. Federation Chairman Fadil Mahmud Gharib said in a statement to INA that the intentions are clear and need no further explanation; the United States wants to uncover our agricultural programs and irrigation plans in order to interfere in Iraqi plans for food security. This reflects the failure of the hostile plot that has failed to affect Iraq's capability, the strength and steadfastness of its people, their great patience, or their sincere and faithful cohesion under the banner of President Saddam Husayn.

He added that our enemies are conducting a series of hostile actions against the Iraqi people, including the burning of wheat fields in northern Iraq. He noted that these crimes confirm unequivocally the desire of the criminal Bush to kill Iraqis, undermine their ambitions, and destroy their morale and national unity. He affirmed that the people, who have sacrificed their blood, will foil all these plots, whatever weapons and methods may be used.

Gharib explained that the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions has informed labor organizations and various figures and parties around the world about the continuation of this crime and called on them to stand by Iraq and exert pressure on their governments to adopt a fair position.

He called on the good and honorable people in the world to note the implications of the U.S. actions and how the United States is manipulating the UN Security Council resolutions to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, contrary to all laws and conventions.

Team Will Not Be Allowed in Ministry

JN1507144292 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 15, INA—International envoy Douglas Englund said that members of the U.N. inspection team surrounding the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture feel the anger and protest of the Iraqis over their task.

The inspectors, however, did not face any real trouble because Iraqi security forces ensure permanent protection for them.

Mr Englund held a meeting with the new U.N. inspection team specialized in nuclear inspection which comprised nine members and arrived in Iraq earlier yesterday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Husam Muhammad Amin, representative of the Iraqi side told AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper of Baghdad that there are no developments on the level of the fabricated crisis and that both sides stick to their positions.

He said that several Arab and international nongovernmental organizations responded to the appeal of the minister of agriculture and groups from them would pay visits to the ministry building.

On the latest resolution of the Security Council, Mr. Muhammad Amin said "Our position is firm and would not change and we would not allow the team members to inspect the ministry".

Minister: Resolutions Not Meeting Medical Needs

JN1607110792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and acting minister of labor and social affairs, has affirmed that the UN resolutions providing for the release of Iraqi assets for purposes of purchasing medicines and medical requirements were semi-fictitious resolutions which resulted only in meeting part of Iraq's needs.

In a press conference today, the minister said that so far, Iraq has received medical materials and medicines worth $7 million out of the medicines that have been paid for since February 1991 to many foreign pharmaceutical companies.

He added that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq has prevented companies with which contracts have been signed through their states from shipping these medical materials and medicines to Iraq.

He explained that many hospitals suffer acute shortages of medicine. He noted that many diseases have spread because of malnutrition, environmental pollution, and the malfunction of electrical and technical equipment as a result of the continued economic blockade against Iraq.

Concluding his press conference, Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak urged the world public opinion to work against this unjust blockade.

Delegation Returns From Meeting in Damascus

JN1307142692 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 13, INA—The Iraqi National Assembly delegation led by Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khaduri returned home today after taking part in the 5th conference of the Afro-Arab parliamentary dialogue held in Damascus on 7 and 8th instant.

Mr. Khaduri told INA that some Arab and African delegations voiced support for Iraq and called for lifting the economic blockade and removing the economic effects caused by the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq.

He referred that the Iraqi delegation called on the necessity of adopting practical measures to deepen coordination among the Arab and African nations specially in the political side and expanding economic and diplomatic ties.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Third River Project

JN1607134592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, today chaired a meeting to discuss the progress of the leader's River project. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, RCC member and prime minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office; 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Sabbagh, minister of agriculture and irrigation; Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of industry and oil sectors; Lieutenant General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff; and Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, assistant Army chief of staff.

Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan presented a detailed report, supported by maps, on the completed phases and the pending phases in accordance with the list of priorities. The report was discussed, and the impressive and sincere efforts of the mujahid engineers, technicians, administrators, and laborers in the construction of the great leader river were evaluated. In their work so far, these mujahidin reflected the extraordinary and unlimited abilities of the people of Iraq under the banner of their courageous leader. As the leader stressed, these people do not allow room for the impossible in their homeland, except for what God Almighty does not want to happen. The meeting was attended by a number of supervisors, field experts, and technicians.

Opposition Urges Arab Leaders To Reject Saddam

NC1307084192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Iraqi opposition groups, organizations, and parties have addressed an important message to Arab kings, amirs, and presidents drawing attention to the attempts of the ostracized tyrant's regime to rehabilitate him to normalize his relations with the Arab states and end his detestable isolation. In their message, which was also addressed to the Arab League secretary general, they called for standing in the face of the attempts of the Saddam regime and freezing its membership in the Arab League and its auxiliary organizations and councils. They recalled the heavy human and material losses suffered by the Iraqi people and the Arab peoples as a result of the tyrant Saddam Husayn regime's crime of invading Kuwait. They affirmed that this crime has undermined Arab solidarity and caused divisions among Arabs.

These groups attributed the attempts of some Arab states to conclude security agreements with foreign countries to defend them against the tyrant regime to their suspicion and fear of that regime. The opposition groups explained in their message the savage crimes committed by tyrant Saddam Husayn in Kuwait, and said that the ostracized regime had before that committed crimes against our people in Iraq. These crimes are no secret to anyone. He not only deprived our people of their basic rights contained in the universal human rights declaration, but also deprived tens of thousands of them of their simplest and most important right, the right to live.

These groups warned against the dangers inherent in the normalization of relations with the ostracized regime, and affirmed that the issuance of a decision by the Arab League, freezing the membership of the tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime will contribute to ending the great tragedy of the Iraqi people who live in a great prison facing calamities and terrorism.

SAIRI Chairman To Visit Cairo 'Shortly'

NC1607180692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], is expected to arrive in Cairo shortly on a visit expected to last several days. Informed sources say that al-Hakim will discuss the possibility of holding an Iraqi opposition conference in Cairo with Egyptian officials. The conference was scheduled to be held in Damascus in March but was postponed for several reasons.

Regime Shelling, Infiltration Orders Reported

NC1507045792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Dictatorial forces for one hour today shelled the peshmerga headquarters and civilian homes in Kani Rash and Shiwah Sur in Karkuk Governorate.

First Army Corps units were placed on alert on 11 July in [name indistinct]. A number of reserve units were deployed on the fronts and equipment was distributed.

Security services and military police are carrying out a campaign to detain fugitives in Karkuk. So far more than 300 have been detained. Units in the Laylan sector of Karkuk Governorate have combed their operational areas.

On 10 July, the military intelligence directorate issued new instructions to the intelligence and security services and units as follows:

1. Make a constant effort to determine the movements of the peshmerga forces.

2. Learn the Kurdish parties' weak points.

3. Infiltrate these parties and foil their plans by learning their weak points and uncovering their secrets.

4. Task personnel to carry out sabotage in the northern areas, particularly against UN headquarters.

The government on 10 July arrested all the 116th Brigade's intelligence service members and soldiers stationed at the district office in Chamchamal because some officers had fled by car to join the peshmergas. The 1st Army Corps' intelligence services have not been able to determine to which units they belonged.

Earlier this month, we reported that there was a huge explosion at the al-Mansur Security Directorate in Karkuk. We now have received the following information about that incident: The explosion killed a group of officers, including one lieutenant colonel, one major, and three captains. The explosion also killed 65 emergency forces members and wounded eight officers.

At 2230 on 11 July, two unidentified people riding in an Oldsmobile threw a hand grenade at the police station in [name indistinct] in Karkuk, killing two policemen. The dictatorial regime subsequently carried out a campaign of arrests. According to reports, regime forces arrested 60 Kurdish citizens in Karkuk.

No-Confidence Motion Filed Over Contract Freeze

TA1607160392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] The opposition was astounded by the speed and determination demonstrated by the new government ministers on the matter of building in the territories.

National Religious Party Knesset Member Hanan Porat said Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-'Eli'ezer's decision was sacrilegious and as severe as the edicts of the Roman Emperors Titus and Hadrian and the White Paper. Porat said he would recommend to his party that it submit a no-confidence motion over this issue.

Tzomet, for its part, did not waste any time and has already announced it is filing such a motion. The party that Rabin would most like to include in the government was the first to announce the filing of a motion of no-confidence in the new government. Tzomet released a caustic communique stating: A government has risen to power in Israel that is obsequious to foreigners—a clear hint at the United States—and ingratiating to Arab terrorism. Its deliberate policy is to act against the Zionist entity.

The Likud also joined in the criticism, stating that Rabin's government hastened to make unilateral concessions that will enfeeble Israel's negotiating power and seriously hurt the settlers. Although it has not yet announced that it will submit a motion of no confidence in the government, it will initiate an urgent debate in the Knesset plenum on the annulment of building contracts.

Further Reportage on Unrest at al-Najah University

'Urayqat Says 'Disaster' Possible

TA1607112192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] There have been no major developments this morning at al-Najah University in Nabulus where, according to Palestinian sources, up to 4,000 students remain on campus and are refusing to leave until the Army pulls back. Most of Nabulus and the surrounding refugee camps remain under curfew, and the area has been declared a closed military zone, off-limits to journalists. Some 250 Palestinian personalities began a hunger strike in the town this morning, demanding that food be allowed into the university. [passage omitted]

One of the hunger strikers, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, is also a lecturer at al-Najah University. Reporter Mark Weiss asked him if the Army does not pull back and allows the students to leave, if he sees any possible way to end the impasse.

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] Now, all I could see is a disaster because, you know, this situation....[changes thought] They say that there are three, four, 10 people that they want inside the campus. I mean, sieging 4,000 people inside the campus for this is really ridiculous. And suppose that students are allowed to leave and they started leaving, and then we have a panic in our hands. Shooting might take place, and we want to avoid anything of the sort. The one thing we want to do, with all wisdom and with all clarity of mind, is to defuse the situation. If we cannot defuse the situation, I'm afraid that we'll have a disaster situation in our hands.

[Weiss] Mr. 'Urayqat, as a lecturer at al-Najah University, are you prepared to condemn interference by armed men during elections, if indeed it did take place?

['Urayqat] Of course, I think the elections....[changes thought] I have a report now from the elections committee in my hands. We have six lists that ran in the elections, and there was no interference whatsoever from any people outside the university. The polling stations were really empty, and nobody was allowed in, aside from the individuals who had the right to vote. I can assure you that this report that I'm reading now in my hand is signed by the supervising committee that was composed of the supervision of the university and the representatives of the six parties who contested the elections. So, I can assure you that no interference whatsoever took place in the elections. The elections took place in a very clean and democratic manner.

[Weiss] Finally, how do you react to claims that this whole affair is a deliberate attempt by Palestinians to test the new government?

['Urayqat] That's ridiculous. I think the Palestinians were anticipating from the new government certain steps to create confidence-building measures in the grounds. When I came to Nabulus two nights ago, there were thousands of people in the streets who were telling us, myself and Faysal al-Husayni: Is that Rabin's gift to us? in a very sarcastic manner. I think the whole situation has....[changes thought] Mr. Rabin himself said it was the mistake of the previous government; that's what he said. I think it's really ridiculous to continue the situation in your hand of 4,000 people being sieged. I think we have in our hand a pressure cooker situation, and I really urge those Israelis in decision-making places to take the soldiers outside the center of the campus, and we can end this ordeal. [end recording]

Deportation 'Offer' Detailed

TA1607183292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has said this afternoon that the defense establishment made an offer to the wanted men in al-Najah University in Nabulus, according to which they would agree to a voluntary 3-year deportation. He noted that the offer was aired on Qol Yisra'el Radio in Arabic and that no one has accepted it so far.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Faysal al-Husayni is currently holding consultations with Nabulus

notables and members of the Palestinian delegation to formulate a counterproposal.

Palestinians Write to Rabin

TA1707103792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jul 92 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and public figures in Nabulus have sent a letter to Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, stating: "A few hours after you called for a resumption of the peace process and announced your willingness to confer with Arab leaders, we were surprised by your unjust orders to impose a siege on 4,500 students, workers, and faculty at al-Najah University, which included a ban on the delivery of food and medicine to the campus and a general curfew on the entire city of Nabulus and the adjacent refugee camps.

"These steps have nothing to do with peace. Quite the contrary, they create a tense atmosphere and eliminate any chance of creating the proper climate. Hence, we call for the following moves:

"1. Lifting the curfew on Nabulus and the adjacent refugee camps;

"2. Lifting the siege on the university and allowing the students and faculty and their families to leave the scene in a free and just fashion. This will allay tempers and will be conducive to a continuation of the peace process."

Among others, the letter is signed by Shahir Sa'd, secretary of the trade union in Nabulus, and by Sami al-Kilani, Samih Kan'an, 'Imad Ya'ish, and Husam 'Abd-al-Hadi, all members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. The letter was coordinated with Faysal al-Husayni.

'Ashrawi, 'Abd-al-Shafi Interrogated by Police

TA1707082492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] In the national police headquarters in Jerusalem, the interrogation of Hanan 'Ashrawi and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi ended a short while ago. The interrogators showed the two a video recording of their meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Jordan.

In their interrogation, 'Ashrawi and al-Shafi refused to confirm or deny that they violated the law, claiming that the police have no authority to question Palestinians on such matters. They were released on bail. This was reported by our correspondent Asaf Ya'ari.

Sources Say Jordan To Outlaw Muslim Brotherhood

TA1707090592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Our correspondent has learned from diplomatic sources in Israel that the Jordanian Government will soon outlaw the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Such a move would deal a blow to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories, seeing that the Jordanian movement is one of its most important logistic bases.

The Jordanian Parliament recently endorsed a new law drafted by the king's court that will ban the activities of political parties receiving foreign aid, and King Husayn is on record as saying that Saudi Arabia finances fundamentalist groups in his country.

According to the sources, Jordan will outlaw "the Jordanian Hamas" based on this argument.

Such a move would constitute a historic change in Jordan's attitude toward the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Austrian Ties Restored to Ambassadorial Level

TA1707091592 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by Rami Langer]

[Text] Peter Aran, who has been serving as the charge d'affaires at the Israeli Embassy in Vienna, presented his ambassadorial credentials to the new Austrian president yesterday.

As may be recalled, the Israeli Foreign Ministry had lowered the rank of its representative in Austria to protest the election of Kurt Waldheim as president.

New Histadrut Secretary General Appointed

TA1607114092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Hayim Haberfeld, the head of the Histadrut's trade union department, was elected the organization's secretary general. He replaces Yisra'el Qeysar, who has become the new transportation minister. Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports that Haberfeld was supported by Labor, MAPAM [United Workers Party], the Citizens Rights Movement, and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]. Likud candidate Ya'aqov Shamay was supported only by members of his faction.

Officials on June Consumer Price Index Rise

TA1507163692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] The June consumer price index [CPI] went up by 0.1 percent. A 10-percent drop in the prices of fruit and vegetables contributed significantly to this low CPI. The general index currently stands at 216.6. The annual inflation rate now stands between 12 and 14 percent. The residential building input index went up by 2.7 percent. The consumption basket of an average urban family, including housing, currently stands at 4,425 shekels.

Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel said that the low CPI is the result of the currency exchange policy that the government has adopted, and it proves that there is no need for a one-time devaluation of the shekel. Frenkel called for a reduction in government spending and in the taxation of the business sector in order to deal successfully with unemployment and the absorption of immigrants.

Hayim Haberfeld, chairman of the Histadrut's Trade Unions Department, said that the CPI indicates a positive trend. He noted, however, that over the past several months, the government has frozen prices due to the elections.

Dov Lautman, President of the Industrialists' Association, said the CPI does not change the most important economic need, the creation of new jobs.

CPI Drops in West Bank, Gaza

TA1707104192 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 92 p 7

[Report by Marit Gilat]

[Text] The West Bank consumer price index [CPI] (cost of housing excluded) dropped by 1.8 percent in June due to an 18.2-percent drop in the prices of fruit and vegetables; otherwise, the CPI went up by 0.8 percent. A 22.9-percent drop in the prices of fruit and vegetables resulted in a 2.7-percent drop in the Gaza Strip CPI. With the exclusion of this clause, the CPI went up by 1.8 percent. This was reported yesterday by the spokesman of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

As will be recalled, Israel's CPI rose 0.1 percent in June, while with the exclusion of the fruit and vegetable clause, the CPI went up 0.7 percent.

The data further indicate that in the first half of 1992, the West Bank CPI went up 5.2 percent (housing prices excluded). The main rise in prices was observed in the food clause, which jumped by 10.7 percent, accounting for 3.8 percent of the overall CPI.

The Gaza Strip CPI (housing excluded) went up by 6 percent in the first six months of 1992. Here as well, the main rise was in food prices—10.4 percent—which contributed 4 percent to the overall CPI.

King 'Fully Satisfied' With Damascus Visit

JN1607182292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening at the end of a short working visit to Damascus during which he met with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic. About the dimensions of his visit to Damascus, his majesty told reporters:

[Begin Husayn recording] The visit was a fraternal one in which we discussed all issues of concern on the bilateral level. We discussed the subject of a just peace that is acceptable to future generations, the situation in the region and in the Arab world, and important world developments. I am grateful for the warmth of the reception. I believe that it is something natural to meet with our brothers from time to time, particularly those who are closer to us. We have one destiny and we have the same objectives, and I am fully satisfied with the results of the visit. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Comments on al-Asad Talks

JN1607200792 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Interview with King Husayn upon his return from Damascus "today" by Jordan Television correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] It is the most natural of events in the sense that the opportunity was afforded us to visit with brethren, close brethren at that, and had a chance to discuss obviously everything of concern and interest on the bilateral level, as well as regards the region, and the ongoing process to achieve a just and durable peace that future generations can live with and accept. So it was a good opportunity to resume contacts with our brethren which has never ceased in any event. But on the personal level, I was touched by the warm reception of President al-Asad. We have known each other for many, many years, and have always maintained these contacts, and have always spoken candidly and frankly about all matters. And obviously the region and other world is passing through very, very interesting stages, and there is much to be done in the times ahead. It was a very, very good visit in all respects.

[al-Sha'ir] Jordan and Syria see eye to eye the change of government in Israel. Are they likely to continue the same course when negotiations begin?

[Husayn] I suppose all this has to be determined in the time ahead, but as far as I can tell, and as far as we are concerned, there is an ongoing process, and we hope to see evidence of a genuine commitment to the cause of peace, and if the Israeli electorate has given us through this choice this change, and we hope that we will see serious and rapid progress towards giving the Palestinians the legitimate rights on their legitimate soil, and to work for the attainment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

[al-Sha'ir] First reports today said that Secretary Baker has a new plan for the negotiations. Does Jordan know anything about this plan?

[Husayn] I haven't any idea about any plan or new plan for that matter, so will have to wait and see.

Foreign Minister on Baker Visit, U.S. Loans

JN1607123492 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jul 92 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] Amman-PETRA—[passage omitted] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that Israel should agree to a framework for withdrawing from the occupied territories before direct talks can be held with the Arab leaders.

Asked under what circumstances he personally would go to Jerusalem, Abu-Jabir said: If there is an agreement on the framework.

He added: Rabin has delivered a speech in which he made no reference at all to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—and these are the principles.

The two resolutions call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories in exchange for peace with the Arabs.

Abu-Jabir was speaking at a briefing for U.S. reporters yesterday. He told the reporters that he is not worried that any improvement in relations between Washington and the new Israeli Government would pose a danger to Jordan or erode sympathy for the Arabs.

He expressed hopes that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the Middle East next week would help give Israel the moral support it needed to work toward peace.

Abu-Jabir said: They themselves are going through a period of transition, and therefore they need a push.

However, he called on Washington to continue to withhold the loan guarantees which it froze after the previous Israeli Government refused to halt settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said that Washington should temporarily withhold the loan guarantees to Israel. If Israel continues to refuse to abide by international law, we should start thinking about aid and how to use aid.

Editorial Views Baker Visit

JN1607133292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Jul 92 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour; Between Concern and Fear"]

[Text] While we closely watch for the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region with all the attention it deserves, we cannot but express our worry over yesterday's statements by the new leaders of Israel in which

they expressed their confidence about getting more loans from Washington despite plans to increase Jewish settlements in parts of the occupied territories. Mordekhay Gur, the candidate for deputy defense minister in Israel, confirmed this confidence when he said yesterday: "I am sure that we will reach a formula with the Americans by which we will get the loan guarantees."

Hence, this certainty as well as Baker's imminent tour of the region implies that the issue of U.S. loan guarantees will be a at the top of the list of topics to be discussed between the Israeli officials and the U.S. secretary of state beginning next Sunday. It is no secret that such a course cannot serve the peace process in the region despite the assurances that Baker's tour aims to give a new push to the peace talks which began last October.

It is important to note that this push cannot be achieved by granting Israel the loan guarantees it is requesting, but by committing Israel to accept the speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the land for peace principle. One should also emphasize that granting Israel these guarantees will only have one explanation—a retraction of the U.S. position which considers settlements an obstacle to peace. It is no secret that this retraction will undoubtedly raise questions about U.S. credibility and thus create another obstacle to peace.

Our readiness to positively deal with Mr. Baker upon his arrival in Amman during his awaited tour of the region does not prevent us from expressing our fear that this tour might result in granting Israel the loan guarantees it wants, especially since these fears are not unfounded and are based on what the Israeli officials are publicly stating in this regard and on the U.S. silence over it.

U.S. Reportedly Withdraws Request for Observers

JN1607145492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A Western diplomatic source has stressed that the United States has withdrawn its request to deploy international observers on Jordanian territory. The United States believes that this request is no longer necessary because the Jordanian control measures meet the standards of the implementation of the international blockade imposed on Iraq. This source described the Jordanian measures as satisfactory, saying they obviate the need for any other international control measures.

It is worth mentioning that Jordan frequently rejected the U.S. request to deploy international observers on its territory, and deemed this approach unacceptable and encroaching on its sovereignty.

An official Jordanian source has stressed to us that the kingdom has always implemented the international blockade measures, and that it recently closed the gaps that would allow smuggling operations to and from Iraq.

The source emphasized that the measures, which are represented by tightening the control system and building trenches in addition to the earth ramparts along the border strip, were necessary to enable Jordan to particularly foil the smuggling of weapons from Iraq to its territory.

Observers view this development as an improvement in relations between Amman and Washington, after the United States' insistence on deploying observers and Jordan's repeated rejection of this request have made these relations tense.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in Jordan on Tuesday in an atmosphere of relaxed relations between the two countries.

Shamir's 'Collapse,' New Government Viewed

JN1407150192 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jul 92 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The End of the Likud Era"]

[Text] Following Yitzhaq Rabin's successful formation of his new government yesterday, the era of the Likud government, along with almost 15 years of Israeli right-wing rule, was officially terminated. This paved the way for the return of a political coalition led by the Labor Party, which lost its parliamentary majority in 1977, but restored it in the recent Knesset elections.

While we do not pin hopes on or have illusions about the political coalition which will hold the reins of power in Israel starting today, we cannot but rejoice over the end of the policy as represented and expressed by Yitzhaq Shamir, who will apparently not be able to return to power in Israel in the foreseeable future.

The collapse of Shamir's rightist policies means the collapse of an entire policy of nationalist and religious extremism that used to block peace and worked to Judaize the Arab territories, plant settlements in them, entrench hatred against the Arabs, prepare the climate for the return of all forms of terrorism, and push the region toward a new Arab-Israeli confrontation.

Anyone who recalls Shamir's statements after the failure of his party in the recent Knesset elections—particularly what he said about his intention to prolong the Arab-Israeli negotiations for 10 years in order to multiply the number of settlements and settlers during this period—cannot but be happy about the collapse of that policy which was is based on prevarication and procrastination.

Although we do not expect Yitzhaq Rabin's government to act contrary to the government of his predecessor Shamir in several areas, we assume that the collapse of Shamir's policy—a policy marked by extremism, arrogance, and political nihilism—serves as a good lesson that cannot be ignored by anyone, especially since we see that the new Israeli Government is free from the shackles

of the Israeli rightist parties and their historical attitude toward the issue of peace in the region.

No matter what developments are expected in the near future, the stones with which Shamir's government was sent off in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories will continue to fall forcefully and effectively and chase all the Likud policies toward the Arabs and the Palestinians until all the Arabs and Palestinians restore all their territories and legitimate political rights, foremost of which is the Palestinian people's right to decide their future on their own soil.

Information Minister on 'Foreign Media Campaign'

JN1407124692 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jul 92 pp 28, 18

[By Nabil Ghazzawi and 'Ali al-'Arqan in al-Mafraq]

[Text] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has affirmed that the Jordanian media has become a basic foundation of democracy and has developed, along with the development of the democratic march in our country. He added that all workers in the media have bolstered the democratic approach whose foundations were laid by his majesty the king. He stressed that the foreign media campaign against Jordan has failed to achieve its objectives and that the unjust arrows of this campaign broke on the solid rock of the Jordanian position expressed by His Majesty King Husayn when he rejected a U.S. proposal to station UN observers on the Iraqi-Jordanian border to confirm that Jordan was complying with UN resolutions pertaining to sanctions against Iraq.

The information minister said that King Husayn's rejection of the proposal was a brave nationalist decision which will be recorded proudly by history, affirming that his majesty had always preferred taking brave stands that are in harmony with the history of Jordan and the Arab nation and the glorious Hashemites.

He added: King Husayn has made us always expect any decision by him to reflect the pride of his people. The information minister was speaking at an open dialogue yesterday afternoon at the al-Mafraq municipality building, organized by the Arab Youth Forum, al-Mafraq Branch. A select group of the city's youth and its administrative officers, senior officials, and popular figures attended the dialogue.

The information minister noted that the official media allow others to express their views through seminars organized by Jordan television, noting that even those who object to the peace process have had a chance to express their views on television.

Speaking about the new publications law soon to be issued by the government, the information minister said: The House of Representatives has endorsed the parties law, and we are waiting for the endorsement of another foundation of democracy, which is the press and publications law. Under this law, licenses will be given to many newspapers and other publications, noting that the Ministry of Information has so far received 150 requests to issue newspapers and magazines. He said that this law will be presented to the House of Representatives for discussion and endorsement, noting that the law was in harmony with the democratic march and very much different from the current law.

Answering a question on press freedoms in Jordan, the information minister said that press in Jordan was completely free and that the Information Ministry did not interfere in any way with its performance.

The information minister called on journalists to practice the freedom guaranteed for them by the new publications law within the framework of showing concern for national interests to ensure the continuity of democracy.

He added: We should safeguard the democracy we are enjoying the same way we take care of a small plant until it becomes strong. The democratic process, he added, should take its time so that it will be understood by everybody, and so that it will meet no setbacks, God forbid.

He added: Jordan is an island in an Arab ocean in which freedom of expression and respect for human rights have not reached the desired level. Our democratic experiment is viewed with displeasure by some states in the region. Therefore, we should deal with our surroundings wisely, vigilantly, and farsightedly.

He affirmed that the official media, including the radio and television, are now expressing different views in their political programs, noting that peace opponents have appeared on television several times and were also interviewed by the radio, and that many critical programs have also been shown.

The information minister asserted that the Information Ministry absolutely does not interfere with what is written by newspapers, despite the fact that some official bodies, such as government funds, contribute to some local newspapers. He noted, however, that these do not interfere with the material published by them or its administration. He pointed out that press freedom does not mean that the papers can say whatever they like, because undisciplined press could destroy society.

Answering another question on the campaign to which Jordan is exposed, the information minister said that Jordan, which is undergoing a democratic experiment, has angered some regimes, since Jordan's experiment reflected the desire of its citizens to live in freedom and enjoy human rights. This made some hate Jordan, because they do not want this homeland to succeed in its pioneering experiment.

He added that Jordan's strong, honorable position toward the Gulf war—which is a historic position in which every Jordanian and honorable patriot takes

pride—made some launch these unjust campaigns, which are no secret to any Jordanian.

The minister affirmed Jordan's eagerness to achieve Arab solidarity, and called for cohesion and cooperation.

He said: Profound changes are taking place in the international arena. We should know and understand the world we live in so that we might not make wrong judgments. States and empires are vanishing.

He called for rationality, wisdom, love, understanding, and serious work. He also called for entrenching the bases of national unity through daily practice, noting that national unity is the rock on which foreign conspiracies founder. He affirmed that a cohesive and united people cannot be defeated by any force.

Responding to another question on allowing Western papers to be distributed in Jordan, he said: Our country is a democratic country and permits all papers, even those which criticize us politely, to be distributed in Jordan. However, we ban papers that abuse this country.

He added: As for the Kuwaiti press and its attacks on this steadfast country, you undoubtedly know the reason behind this campaign. Let them know that this will not result in any change in Jordan's honorable position. This country will remain steadfast, will maintain its nation's rights, and will preserve its pan-Arabism irrespective of the cost.

Responding to a question on the recent U.S. proposals to the Jordanian Government, the information minister said that the U.S. Government proposed that checkpoints be stationed in al-'Aqabah and on the Jordanian land border to monitor materials that are banned from entering Iraq in return for halting the inspection of the ships bound for al-'Aqabah. However, through its Hashemite leadership which rejects the sovereignty and pride of Jordan and its people being harmed, Jordan rejected this proposal. He said this stand is in line with the Arab nation's history and that of the Hashemite family.

He added that Jordan has opted for this honorable and sound position irrespective of the price. He said Jordan has a known history and has always offered sacrifices for the sake of its pan-Arab stands and to defend its nation's rights.

Responding to a question on the Islamic movement in Jordan, al-Sharif said: The Islamic movement in Jordan is a respectable movement and enjoys full freedom in its activities. The media have been open to this movement so that it can express its views and address its citizens.

He said: We do not allow anybody to attack faith. This is banned by the publications law. Moreover, the law stipulates punishment for whoever attacks faith. But when a writer publishes an article criticizing a certain viewpoint, this should be considered freedom of expression, in which the state does not intervene. As officials, we do not intervene.

Responding to a question on the usefulness of the peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis, he said: Engaging in negotiations is not a purely Arab option. It is necessity imposed by international and Arab circumstances. We are trying to achieve our objectives through international legitimacy. We seek Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, relying on the world's support for us and for the need to implement international resolutions.

He affirmed that engaging in negotiations is much better than the state of no-peace-no-war which helps Israel continue settlement activity, Judaize occupied Palestinian territory, and threaten Arab states.

Responding to a question on Jordan's stand on Rabin's government, the minister said that Yitzhaq Rabin's coming to power reveals a change in the mentality of Israeli society which was believed to be rallying around the Likud and Shamir's policies and that it was against negotiations. He added that the Palestinian and Arab political approach has contributed to Shamir's fall and Rabin's success.

He said that there are some differences between the declared stands of the two men. However, nobody can know the final stand of the Israeli Government on the peace negotiations before its policy has been explained.

He added: The course of the new government can only be judged through its actions and response to the requirement of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

As for the negotiations, he said we engaged in negotiations not to relinquish our rights or our nation's rights. If we do not attain our Arab rights with regard to the Palestinian people's return to their homeland and the establishment of their state on their national soil, we will reject the negotiations and will not accept relinquishing our people's rights.

Responding to a question, Mahmud al-Sharif said that a meeting will be held between television officials and officials from al-Mafraq Governorate to discuss providing a television crew in the governorate to air its news and activate its youths' cultural and social role.

The meeting was attended by al-Mafraq Governor Mahmud al-Sari, Mayor 'Abdallah Basbus, Governorate Police Director Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Husayn, and 'Abdallah Kan'an, representative of his highness the head of of Arab Thought Forum. The meeting was also attended by a large audience from the governorate's population.

Parties Merge To Form New Political Party

JN1607075792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16-17 Jul 92 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—In an unprecedented move three Jordanian political parties announced Wednesday that they were joining forces to form the Progressive Democratic Jordanian Party (PDJP). The move was the first merger of established political groupings in the Kingdom since the political parties law was passed in the Lower House of Parliament ten days ago.

The Progressive Jordanian Party (PJP) led by Fawwaz al-Zu'bi, the Democratic Jordanian Party (DJP) led by 'Ali 'Amir and the organisation for Communist Labourers in Jordan (OCLJ) led by Nuwasir al-Kayid all emerged in their present form after Jordan's 1988 decision to break all administrative and political links with the West Bank.

Known as the disengagement from the occupied territories, the 1988 move set off a series of new formations of political groups and parties in the Kingdom.

"In order to abide by the disengagemment we also disengaged the parties that had been working on both sides of the River Jordan for the last 30 years," explained party organiser, Muhammad Hamarishah of the DJP.

The three parties in question are all leftist and one has been active on the political scene since the 1950's. The PJP became a party in early 1991 after breaking with the Palestinian Communist Party. Like the PJP, the Democratic Jordanian Party, which since August 1989 became independent from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine ('Abd-Rabbuh faction), was a break off from the still existing Palestinian parties.

The OCLJ, by far the oldest and possibly the most populous of the three parties, has been active, in one form or another, since the 1950's. The three parties are all based on marxist or socialist beliefs.

With the changes in left wing parties all over the world, the Jordanian leftist parties have also undergone reform in their infrastructure and have made the leadership less centralised and more democratic.

"The union of the three parties in and of itself is an indication of liberalisation and flexibility that may not have been their before," said 'Ali 'Amir.

The PJP, the DJP and the OJLJ decided on the merger after it because evident that the Jordanian political scene would be flooded with political parties as soon as they were legalised.

"We started hearing that there will be 60 parties at least—we know that with too many parties on the scene the votes will be split and we want the largest number of votes—so maybe we can get some people elected into the legislature and effect some government programmes," said Mr. 'Amir.

While the organisers of the PDJP would only say that the following of the new party was "over a thousand" they would not say whether they are in the thousands.

The organisers also said that they believed that they would meet all the requirements which would make them eligible for an official party status with the Ministry of Interior.

The ministry has set a quota system in which a party must have a minimum of 50 members, all over the age of 18, to officially register as a party.

The three "old" parties will become "defunct" with time explained Mr. Hamarishah, "forming merely groups within the PDJP." In the meantime, Mr. al-Zu'bi will be the party's chairman with Mr. 'Amir acting as second in command. The former executive Committees of the three executive committees of the three parties have joined to become one executive committee.

"It will take time to totally merge—but the ground rules have been set and will exist," concluded Mr. 'Amir.

Many more parties are expected to announce their formation and mergers in the upcoming weeks.

Al-Hirawi: Government Preparing for Elections

NC1607193092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said the best way to confront major national challenges is to dispose of domestic burdens. He also commented on parliamentary elections, saying:

[Begin al-Hirawi recording] After the ratification of the elections law, I must say that the government is preparing to hold general parliamentary elections to enable the people to renew their representation and complete the implementation of all clauses of the National Accord Document. All parties will share in charting our common future, particularly because we are at the threshold of a delicate stage. We came to bring about national accord, and we are determined to preserve and consolidate it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Chamber of Deputies Passes Election Bill

NC1607163892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Samir Farhat dispatch from the Chamber of Deputies Building in Beirut on 16 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In a marathon session that lasted from 1100 this morning until 1740 this evening, the Chamber of Deputies passed the parliamentary election bill. The majority of deputies voted for the bill. The following 13 deputies opposed the bill: Albert Mukhaybir, Butrus Harb, Hamid Dakrub, Najah Wakim, Emile Ruhana Saqr, and deputies representing the Phalangist Party's bloc and former Speaker Kamil al-As'ad's bloc.

The amendments endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies follow:

1. Paragraph 2 of Article 8 as follows: If the general elections do not take place within the period specified in Article 42 of the Constitution, the preceding paragraph of this article will be null and void and the Chamber of Deputies' term will remain valid until 31 January 1994.

2. Paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the Election Law dated 26 April 1960 and its amendments as follows: In exceptional circumstances and for a single election process, the election committees [al- hay'at al-intikhabiyah] will be invited to meet by decree. The time between the date of promulgation of this decree and the committees' meetings will be at least 15 days. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh praised the spirit of democracy that marked the Chamber's debate, noting the government's commitment to ensure an atmosphere of freedom and neutrality during the elections and its pledge to return the displaced persons to their homes.

He also discussed the border areas, saying that the government will secure voting in areas under the control of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The government will ensure that voting will take place near Israeli-occupied areas. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes U.S. Senate 'Recommendation'

NC1707105692 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 5 Jul 92 p 13

["Spotlights" column by Muhammad Baqir Sharri: "Who Will Continue To Market U.S. 'Mirage' to Arabs? Even 'Likud Had No 'Recommendation' Like That Made by the U.S. Senate on Lebanon and Withdrawals"]

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Government must do something about the "recommendation" by the leaders of the Democratic majority and Republican minority in the U.S. Congress about the situation in Lebanon, particularly the "recommendation" on "the unnecessary Syrian influence on the Lebanese Government." Lebanon's Government should protest, even symbolically, against this recommendation that reflects the senate's desire to impose "an unnecessary U.S. influence" or "a more than necessary" U.S. custodianship on the entire Lebanese people, by adopting the reasoning of those opposed to the elections or of those eager to hold them.

We think the U.S. Senate—which U.S. officials had already described as "Israeli territory" due to the great Zionist influence on it—has not drawn up a "U.S. recommendation" for Lebanon, but has deputized for the Hebrew state in drawing up an Israeli "recommendation."

The Lebanese Government must address a simple and humble question to Washington: Who determines for the Lebanese people whether the Syrian influence on the Lebanese Government is "necessary" or not? [passage omitted]

This "recommendation" ignores the feelings of the Lebanese majority, including those opposed to the elections. Who told U.S. Senate members sitting inside "Capitol Hill" that the "elections" the "recommendation" is demanding should not refer to or mention the Israeli withdrawal that every UN resolution and al-Ta'if charter call for? The al-Ta'if charter notes that the Syrian forces would be redeployed in specific areas of Lebanon as the Lebanese authorities decide and that the latter can seek these forces' help whenever it wants. The al-Ta'if charter has stressed the need for the Israeli withdrawal and the need to use every "means," including the right of armed resistance against the Israeli occupation.

The "recommendation" would have at least "struck a balance" between these two points had it shown a modicum of diplomatic or political "decorum" and considered the dignity of the Lebanese and the Arabs.

We don't think we are "unfair" to the Senate when we say that its "recommendation" is not an American one, but is really an Israeli one, almost as if it was written by Shamir himself even after his downfall and Yitzhaq Rabin's victory.

This shameful stance by the U.S. Senate, which does not befit the reputation of a great country such as the United States, appears to want to cancel the feelings of the Syrians and the Lebanese majority and mock international justice and laws. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Meets With Hizballah Delegation

NC1607070392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting was held yesterday between National Defense Minister Michel al-Murr and a Hizballah delegation consisting of Political Bureau deputy chief 'Umar al-Musawi and Security Committee official Haj 'Abd-al-Hadi Hammadi. They discussed the political situation in Lebanon, the need to support the resistance against the occupation, and the ongoing preparations for parliamentary elections.

Colonel Michel Rahbani, director of the Lebanese Army's Intelligence Department, also attended.

'Faithful Resistance' Claims Attacks on SLA

NC1607073592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The faithful resistance has claimed responsibility for two operations against Israeli agents on the road between al-Qantarah and Zawtar in the central sector.

A statement issued by the resistance in Beirut yesterday said that a clash between a unit of the faithful resistance and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] resulted in the death of six agents and the martyrdom of a resistance man.

The statement added that the resistance detonated an explosive charge yesterday under a patrol of the Israeli agents in the central sector, killing or wounding eight members of the patrol.

Two Militiamen Reportedly Killed

NC1607112592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] A clash took place this morning between a resistance group and a joint Israeli-Lahd militia force laying an ambush at the al-Tayyibah junction. Two Lahd militiamen were killed. The occupation forces immediately brought in mechanized reinforcements. The resistance men then detonated an explosive device, wounding four militiamen.

The enemy reinforced his positions in al-Qantarah and al-Tayyibah during the night with more than 15 tanks and vehicles.

Yesterday's shelling of Qabrikha damaged dozens of houses and destroyed a building belonging to the Irish contingent [of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon—UNIFIL]. A 155-mm shell fell on the same contingent in Tulin but UNIFIL security measures prevented any casualties.

Israeli, Lahd Areas Attacked 16 Jul

NC1607165792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] This afternoon the Islamic Resistance carried out two attacks against positions of enemy troops and their agents. The first attack was against a roadblock manned by the Israeli troops and their agents in Kafr Huna. A tank was destroyed and three casualties were reported. The second operation targeted a Lahd militia position in Tumat Niha. Several trenches were destroyed in the operation.

In an unrelated development, occupation troops and their agents have been raking the Mimis sector, the al-Dahr hills, and the al-Fatir river bank machine-gun fire since this afternoon. Enemy warplanes overflew the areas of Hasbayya and al-'Urqub, creating an atmosphere of panic among the citizens and causing an exodus from Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah toward safer areas.

SLA Denies Resistance Attacks, Claims

NC1707075592 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Our military correspondent has denied the claims of the Islamic Resistance and Hizballah [as heard] that they attacked an Israeli position and a South Lebanese Army [SLA] one in the Kafr Huna area. He also stressed that no SLA soldier was hurt.

After contacting an authoritative SLA official, our correspondent said the Tumat Niha position was shelled, but there was no damage and SLA artillery gunners returned fire. The official denied a REUTER report that one soldier was killed and three others were injured at this position.

Israeli Shelling of Southern Villages Reported

NC1707092592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south has reported that Israeli artillery fired five shells at the outskirts of 'Arab Salim at about 1100 today. According to security sources in al-Nabatiyah, the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah have been coming under intermittent artillery bombardment since 1100.

U.S.-Israel 'Spat' Over; 'Meeting of Minds' Seen

JN1607160492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: With the spat between Washington and Tel Aviv while the Shamir-led Likud bloc was in power now over, U.S.-Israeli relations are now back on track, and there seems to be a virtual meeting of minds as to how the Middle East peace process should proceed. While the Arabs hope that with a more harmonious relationship with Tel Aviv, Washington will be better positioned to prevail on Israel to take the road of a just peace as envisioned by the U.S. Administration's peace initiative, they nonetheless fear it may prove counterproductive. In other words, the Arabs fear that the Rabin government may use improved relations with Washington to get the United States to adopt its policy planks which do not seem to diverge from those of the Shamir government which immobilized the peace process. This is not to question Washington's intentions toward bringing peace to the region, given a conviction on our part that peace within the framework of the new world order will advance strategic U.S. interests. However, the hopes the Arabs place in Washington playing a positive role in the peace process are subject to the United States keeping its promise to promote a settlement founded on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula. We do not think that Washington itself sees any clash between strategic U.S. interests in the region and a settlement based on the two resolutions. It is the United States itself that has been reiterating that international legitimacy should underpin the post-cold war era. The problem, then, lies in an aversion to UN resolutions and international legitimacy by both the outgoing Shamir government and the incoming Rabin government.

The quesiton arises: In order to unblock the peace process—having been let down by Shamir's inflexibility—will Washington, which had exerted itself to promote Rabin's election chances, now seek to gratify him and settle the issue at the expense of the Arabs and so adopt the position of its strategic ally Israel, or will it stay committed to its obligations and promises to which it bound itself peace process was launched?

Arab fears are not groundless. Not that we are not aware of joint U.S.-Israeli interests and Israel's influence on the upcoming U.S. presidential elections. But Arab fears are hardly mitigated by recent statements by U.S. spokesmen. True, Washington declares it remains bound by the present framework of the peace process. However, against the background of utterances by U.S. spokesmen that Washington will not object to contacts being held outside the framework of the negotiating process set up by the Madrid peace conference, one cannot help but ask whether the United States will renege on previous commitments.

The Arabs have no intention of getting in the way of the close relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv. But neither will they accept to fall victim to this relationship. The Arabs, especially at the upcoming meeting of the cordon states, will seek to deepen harmony, understanding and cohesion among themselves to pull the rug from under any attempt to split their ranks by offering this or that Arab party mere crumbs to lure it away from its fellow Arabs.

Rabin Statements 'Do Not Inspire Optimism'

NC1607121292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has told L'ORIENT LE JOUR that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements do not inspire optimism. He added, however, that negotiations will continue nevertheless.

Khaddam added: When the negotiators meet, it will be possible to tell whether the Israeli Government is going to introduce serious changes to the policy pursued by Shamir. He stressed that it is too early to say whether the Rabin government will take positive or serious stands.

Jordan's King Husayn Begins Official Visit

Discusses Peace Process

JN1607181692 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in Damascus at noon today. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led the welcoming party at the airport. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and his esteemed guest then drove in a state motrocade to the People's Palace. [passage omitted]

Upon their arrival at the People's Palace, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn held a meeting attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil, and Syria's Ambassador in Amman Majid Abu-Salih. For Jordan, the talks were attended by the accompanying delegation and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with regional developments and the peace process. The two sides stressed the importance of consultations among the parties involved in the peace process. [passage omitted]

Departs 16 Jul

JN1607181292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus, 16 Jul (SANA)—His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left Damascus at 1730 today, ending a brief visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Leading the farewell party at the airport was His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Also on hand to bid him farewell were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputy prime ministers and ministers, and the ambassadors of Syria to Jordan and Jordan to Syria.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad escorted his esteemed guest in a state motorcade from the People's Palace to the airport.

Importance of Coordination Among Arabs Stressed

JN1707060392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Our Fragmentation is the Cause of Our Weakness," AL-BA'TH says that Israel benefits from Arab fragmentation in its military acts and political maneuvering. The paper says that fragmentation among Arabs is the sharpest weapon in the hands of the Israelis. The paper stresses that our real victory lies in our unity, coordination, and adherence to our sacred cause.

AL-BA'TH says: The Arab masses are not responsible for the causes of Arab weakness represented by divisions and fragmented loyalty. Our people throughout the Arab homeland are sincere in their affiliation. All forms of loyalties will not prevent them from adhering to Arabism.

AL-BA'TH adds: Hence comes the importance of coordination among Arab leaders because it meets the demands of the masses. It is impossible to discuss how to deter the aggression in the absence of effective solidarity; and confronting the Zionist deception campaign cannot be achieved without coordinating stands. This has always been the demand of Arab Damascus—that is, the Arabs should have their united stand and word and solid will to collectively defend the fate and existence, as well as to restore our usurped rights.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Damascus, the capital of decisionmaking, will always remain the force uniting Arabs because it opens its heart to all Arabs. This has been its destiny throughout history. It has never known despair, because the strength of its affiliation is stronger than anything that stands in the face of its honest path and sincerity to the interests of the people and nation.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Receives Hashemi-Rafsanjani Greetings

LD1607185392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpt] A congratulatory message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was submitted to Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of Afghanistan's Leadership Council and head of Afghanistan's Islamic government, by Mr. Mohammad Hasan Mohyeddin-Najafi, the new [Iranian] ambassador [to Afghanistan] and our country's plenipotentiary envoy to Kabul.

According to the Voice and Vision's correspondent's report from Afghanistan, our country's new ambassdor submitted his credentials to the chairman of Afghanistan's Islamic government during the ceremonies. Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani expressed thanks for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message on the occasion of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. He also appreciated the kind support of the government and Muslim nation of Iran and their help rendered to Afghan refugees and Afghan mojahedin.

During that meeting Borhanoddin Rabbani also urged constant expansion of bilateral relations and promotion of the two country's cooperation in all fields. Mr. Najafi also announced the readiness of our country to participate in the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Islamic Leader Seeks Shiite Share in Government

LD1607222192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Excerpt] In an interview with our reporter in Kabul, Mr. Mazari, the secretary general and spokesperson of the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami], reiterated his party's previous stance regarding the right of the Afghan Shiites to a 25 percent share in the Afghan Governmment. He then called on Borhanoddin Rabbani, head of the interim Government of Afghanistan, to accept agreements previously reached with Sebghatollah Mojaddedi on the share of Shiites in the future government of Afghanistan.

Expressing optimism on finding a solution to problems of Afghanistan, he believed that holding free elections will be the only just way to put an end to the existing turmoil and to improve the situation. He said the Islamic Unity Party believes that the people should participate in determining their own fate and that the elections should be held under the supervision of UN representatives when all the Afghan refugees have returned to the country. However, he added that during the four-month period of the term of Mr. Rabbani it is not expected that these conditions will be available.

He said that foreign intrigues, especially by the Wahhabis, were responsible for the recent clashes between Afghan mojahedin and parties. He added that Muslims did not want such clashes because these have grave consequences and play into the hands of the enemies. Mazari underlined that contrary to the wish of the leaders and Muslim people of Afghanistan and despite cease-fire agreements, the recent clashes were initiated by the Islamic Union Party [Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami]. These clashes were not triggered by racial or sectarian issues. He added that thanks to efforts of the Muslim mojahedin the clashes have been stopped and prisoners exchanged.

He said that a federal system for administering the country is a just way of respecting the wishes of the people of Afghanistan. He underlined that a federal government is not in any form the same as separatism. [passage omitted]

Six Killed; Hezb-e-Eslami Blames Uzbeks

NC1407194292 Paris AFP in English 1844 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 14 (AFP)—Five Uzbek militiamen and one mojahedin guerrilla were killed in fierce clashes in Kabul Tuesday, the Afghan premier's Hezb-e-Eslami faction said.

Witnesses and hospital sources earlier said at least four people died and 10 wounded in the clashes.

The three-hour fighting in the morning shattered a week-old uneasy calm in the city, where fighters from different mojahedin factions are occupying government buildings.

A Hezb spokesman said the clashes started when Uzbek militiamen tried to disarm mojahedin groups from eastern Nangarhar Province visiting Kabul to meet interim Prime Minister 'Abdolsabur Farid, who assumed office over a week ago.

Ustad Saeed [name as received] said more than 1,000 mojahedin of different political affiliations had arrived here Monday night in a convoy from Jalalabad.

"They came with flowers and have left carrying a dead body," he said.

Meanwhile the political committee of Hezb-e-Eslami, which is led by radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, warned that the party had the right to give an "appropriate response" to the "criminal activities of the militia of General 'Abdolrashid Dostam and "other remnants" of ousted communist regime.

Uzbek militia headquarters in the city, where tension has risen, said the trouble began when "some terrorists" fired on the car of militia General Abdolrashid Ghafoor Faryqbi [name as received] while he drove through the area.

Other sources said an argument between rival groups over the alleged detention of two Uzbek militiamen caused the flareup.

One body, that of a cigarette vendor, was seen lying in the compound of the Public Health Ministry.

Guards at the ministry said he was hit in the cross fire and died instantly.

At an army hospital, which was hit by seven rockets that smashed glass windows and injured a patient, doctors said six of the 10 injured brought to the hospital were in a serious condition.

India

Congress-I's Sharma Wins Presidential Election

Receives 64.78 Percent of Vote

BK1607170692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma has been elected the new president of India. The result of the presidential election was announced in New Delhi this evening by the returning officer, Mr. Sudarshan Agarwal.

The Congress-I candidate, Dr. Sharma, secured 64.78 percent of the total votes polled, while the National Front-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-supported candidate Professor G.G. Swell, polled 33.21 percent votes. Members of parliament and state legislatures, numbering 4,601, constituted the electoral college for the presidential election.

The total value of votes polled by Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma is 675,864 and that of Professor G.G. Swell 346,485. The independent candidate, Mr. Joginder Singh alias Dhartipakar, got the support of three legislators and one member of parliament. Mr. Ram Jethmalani, who announced his retirement from the contest, got votes of 11 MLA's [members of legislative assembly] and two members of parliament. The returning officer told newsmen that 67 votes polled were invalid, while one ballot paper contained a note praising the president-elect, Dr. Sharma. The new president will be sworn in on the 25th of this month. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, was among the first who called on the president-elect, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, soon after the formal declaration of the result of the presidential election. Mr. Rao was with Dr. Sharma for about 15 minutes. Later, talking to newspersons, the prime minister said that the country has got the right president. He said the country's future is in safe hands.

The opposition candidate in the presidential election, Prof. G.G. Swell, called on Dr. Sharma and complimented him on his election to the highest office in the country. Several cabinet ministers, Congress party leaders, and leaders of the other parties also visited Dr. Sharma's residence to congratulate him. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, sent a bouquet of flowers and a congratulatory letter to Dr. Sharma. Dr. Sharma, along with his wife and other family members, later visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] and met President Venkataraman and Mrs. Janaki Venkataraman.

Earlier, Dr. Sharma in a statement said that he feels honored to have been elected to the post of the president of India. He said he feels that a great responsibility has been placed on his shoulders. Dr. Sharma said that he will pray to the Almighty to give him the strength to uphold the ideals of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and other great leaders of freedom struggle and national reconstruction.

Several other prominent persons of the country have sent congratulatory messages to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma on his election as the president.

Biographical Information Given

BK1607124692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma will be the new president of India. Dr. Sharma defeated his nearest rival, Mr. G.G. Swell, the National Front and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] nominee, in the presidential election results, which were declared just now. Details of the votes polled by the candidates are awaited.

Born on the 19th of August 1918 at Bhopal, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma becomes the country's ninth president after an eventful public life of over four decades. A veteran freedom fighter, he held several important offices both at the state level and at the Center after independence. Starting his legal practice in Lucknow in 1940, Dr. Sharma took an active part in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned for eight months for his role in the merger movement in Bhopal. He had a long association with the Congress Party and was the president of the Indian National Congress from 1972 to 1974. Dr. Sharma was the chief minister of the erstwhile Bhopal state and a member of the Madhya Pradesh cabinet for about 11 years. From 1974 to 1977, he was union minister for communication. Before becoming the vice president of India in September 1987, Dr. Sharma held the office of the governor in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Maharashtra.

Sharma 'All Things to All People'

BK1607133392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, July 16 (AFP)—India's president-elect Shankar Dayal Sharma brings a wealth of experience in public life and a formidable reputation for political tact, fairness and erudition to the nation's top office.

Few expect the 74-year-old Hindu Brahmin to be anything but completely above board in the presidential palace—a sign of the respect he commands across party lines despite close links to the ruling Congress (I) Party.

"We congratulate him. He is a man of ability, integrity and scholarship who will do credit to the high office," said K.R. Malkani, spokesman for the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party).

The BJP sponsored the candidacy of runner-up George Swell, a former diplomat of Christian tribal origin, but the warm welcome it gave Sharma's elevation from vice president was an indication of his wide acceptability.

"Our fight was not against Dr. Sharma, it was against the Congress," Malkani explained.

Even the centrists, who stopped a consensus behind Sharma insisting that the presidency should go to a deserving candidate of deprived castes or tribes like Swell, had no quarrel with the president-elect.

"He has always been above party lines," said Jaipal Reddy, centrist opposition leader of the upper house, which Sharma has presided over. "We are sure he will continue to rise above parties as president."

The Communists broke ranks with their centrist allies to support Sharma, saying he was the best man for the job, which the Congress (I) declared would be the "most natural and logical culmination of a distinguished career."

Although it is a largely ceremonial post, with real power residing in the prime minister, the president has the right to "advise, admonish and warn" the government and can play a key role in resolving political crises when his impartiality would be on test.

There are no doubts about Sharma's credentials, which date back to the 1930's when he came into student politics and joined Mahatma Gandhi's movement for freedom from the British.

Despite extensive Western education including a doctorate in law from Cambridge University and a Harvard Law School fellowship, he has the image of a homegrown son of the soil.

Always seen in the Hindu attire of "dhoti," a long white loin cloth, a closed-collar Indian jacket and a Gandhi cap, the seasoned politician is fluent in the ancient language of Sanskrit and recites the scriptures from memory.

"If ever there could be a man who could be all things to all people, then Shankar Dayal Sharma would easily fit that description," the Calcutta-based news magazine Sunday commented in a recent article.

Sharma, who was born in 1918 in a middle class family in the central Indian city of Bhopal, had a long innings in the cut and thrust of Congress politics.

He was a close and respected counsellor of prime minister Indira Gandhi starting as general secretary of the Congress when he stood by her side against a powerful syndicate during the party's first split in 1969.

Sharma went on to serve in many important state and national posts under her and her son Rajiv Gandhi including a stint as party chief, and was always listened to for his advice.

But he stayed away from the seamier side of politics, not allowing traditional Congress intrigues and conspiracies to sully his spotless image.

As chairman of parliament's upper house, an office he has held simultaneously as vice president since 1987, the elder statesman has been strictly impartial in his conduct of proceedings.

At least twice he burst into tears after failing to control undisciplined and raucous Congress MP's when political temperatures soared during Rajiv Gandhi's stormy term, once threatening to quit if they did not behave.

When he was appointed governor of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in 1984, he played a key role in reinstating an opposition party government that was sacked after a Congress-induced split.

The stocky president-designate, who has a sweet tooth, is fond of swimming and rowing. He likes poetry, is a fan of Indian classical music, Mozart and Beethoven.

A father of four, he suffered a personal tragedy in 1986 when his only daughter and her husband were gunned down by Sikh militants.

No-Confidence Motion Against Rao Government Fails

BK1707120792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government has been defeated in the Lok Sabha. Two hundred and sixty-seven members voted against the motion, while 215 voted for it. Ten members, including two from the Muslim League, abstained. The motion moved by Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], was supported by most opposition parties. The speaker's announcement about the defeat of the motion was greeted with loud cheers and thumping of desks by Congress-I and its allied parties' members.

Replying to the three-day debate, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, strongly refuted the opposition charge of inaction on the Ayodhya issue and said he is awaiting further report on the actual compliance of the Allahabad High Court's stay order by the Uttar Pradesh government. He said he has been told that a special message has been sent to Faizabad by the state government with directions to the district authorities to comply with the court verdict.

During his 75-minute reply, the prime minister dwelt at length on various issues raised by the opposition, particularly economic policies, Bofors, the [former foreign minister] Solanki affair, and foreign policy.

On Bofors, Mr. Narasimha Rao said investigations will be pursued vigorously without let or hindrance. On the Solanki episode, the prime minister informed the members that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] had questioned the former external affairs minister. But he said that he was not in a position to identify the person who gave the note delivered to the Swiss foreign minister. Mr. Rao said he had again spoken to Mr. Solanki today whether he could recollect the identity of the person. Amidst interruptions, he said if anything needs further explanation it will be done.

Janata Party Abstains

BK1707091692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The Janata Party has decided to abstain from voting against the Narasimha Rao government on the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha. The decision was taken by the party MP's at a meeting in New Delhi today. According to a party press release, the decision had been made as the Janata Party does not want to support the motion moved by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

Further Reportage on Ayodhya Temple Dispute

Reactions to Prime Minister's Stance

BK1607163292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Congress-I parliamentary party met in New Delhi this morning and endorsed the stand taken by the prime minister on the Ayodhya issue. Talking to newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the Congress-I has always favored the construction of the temple, but without touching the mosque. He said what the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad—World Hindu Council], and the Bajrang Dal are seeking to do in Ayodhya will strike at the very root of the social fabric of the nation.

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has described the prime minister's statement on Ayodhya in Parliament yesterday as misleading. In a statement in New Delhi today, Dr. Joshi claimed that the Babri Masjid has ceased to be a mosque for decades and it has been functioning as a temple since 1949.

Prime Minister Meets Hindu Activists

BK1707031792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] In Ayodhya, the construction activities at the Shinanyar site are reported to be continuing. Over 400 activists of the Babri Masjid Action Committee courted arrest yesterday in Faisalabad in protest against the ongoing construction in the disputed complex. According to official sources in Faisalabad, the situation in Ayodhya continues to be peaceful. Representatives of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP—World Hindu Council] met the Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi last evening. They exchanged views on the situation in Ayodhya. The discussions were inconclusive. The Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee—BMMCC—has expressed concern over the non-enforcement of the court orders restraining construction near the disputed site in Ayodhya. In a statement issued in New Delhi, the BMMCC convenor Mr. Sayid Shahabuddin said that in case the Uttar Pradesh government is unwilling or unable to enforce the order the center should fulfill its constitutional obligation.

Action Threatened Against Uttar Pradesh

BK1707091092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Both houses of parliament have been informed that the Uttar Pradesh [UP] government has asked the district magistrate and superintendent of police of Faizabad District to implement the stay order regarding the construction work in Ayodhya. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha that he received a communication from the chief minister in response to his letter to stop the work. Responding to members' skepticism over the state government's intentions, Mr. Chavan asserted that the center will not hesitate to take action if the court order is not implemented. He said the real test now is to see whether the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government stands by the Constitution and assured that the center will not be found wanting in taking appropriate measures. He denied any collusion between the Congress-I and the BJP and said leaders of political parties will be consulted before deciding the further line of action. Not satisfied, the non-BJP members alleged that the UP government is hand-in-glove with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP—World Hindu Council] in the matter. They also criticized the VHP call for demonstration before the courts in the state and demanded action for contempt of court. Demands for dismissal of the state government and deployment of Army in Ayodhya were also raised. Earlier, the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha were disrupted for nearly 15 minutes during the question hour over the issue.

Crisis Dominates Parliament Debate

BK1607163492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The finance minister says the government will not spare the guilty in the security scam howsoever high or mighty they may be. Dr. Manmohan Singh told the Lok Sabha today that the government has nothing to hide and that is why it has agreed for a joint parliamentary committee probe. He was responding to the opposition criticism of multicrore scam in the resumed debate on

the motion of no confidence in the Narasimha Rao government. Sharing members' concern on price increase, the finance minister said inflationary pressures have been checked and the budget deficit brought down to six percent of the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] from 8.5 perecent last year.

The Ayodhya developments dominated the discussion with several non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members calling upon the government to take courageous action to implement the interim order of the Allahabad high court against any construction work. The Left party members made a strong demand for the Center's takeover of the disputed area. The Congress-I maintained that while nobody is opposed to the construction of the temple at Ayodhya, the BJP should see reason and work to protect the national interest.

Earlier, in his brief intervention, the agriculture minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar, assured the members that all necessary steps will be taken to minimize the effect of droughts on food grain production.

The house continued its sitting late to complete most of the debate. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, announced that the prime minister will reply tomorrow when the voting on the no-confidence motion will take place.

House Proceedings Disrupted

BK1707081692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Proceedings in the Rajya Sabha were stalled this morning for nearly 15 minutes over the Ayodhya developments. As soon as the house assembled, the Congress-I and non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members demanded immediate central intervention as the high court orders have been violated and the construction is still on. They alleged that even the Uttar Pradesh ministers are not able to go to the site and said the center should not be a mute witness to this serious development. The question hour could be taken up only when the chair announced that the home minister who came to the house by then will respond immediately after the question hour.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for half an hour this morning during question time amidst uproar over the Ayodhya developments. As soon as the house met this morning, the National Front and Left party members were on their feet demanding suspension of the question hour. Amidst a pandemonium they condemned the alleged burning of effigies of judges in Uttar Pradesh who delivered the judgment restraining construction work. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, raising the issue demanded an immediate statement. The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the BJP strongly condemns any disrespect shown to the judiciary and asserted that no member of his party was involved. His remarks that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh cannot forget the mandate given by the people drew large protest from the Congress-I, National Front and Left Front members. Senior Janata Dal members asserted that it is not the question of temple or masjid [mosque], but a respect to the pillars of democracy. Amidst repeated interruptions from the BJP benches the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, said yesterday's incidents are of grave concern and no individual or political party has any right to show disrespect to the judiciary. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, made repeated pleas to maintain calm and allow proceedings of the house to enable members to express their views on the issue freely.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Rabi Ray, appealed to BJP leaders, Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, that they should advise the Uttar Pradesh government to uphold the court orders. He said a similar message should go out from the house that there is no other way out but to follow the Allahabad High Court's orders. Later, a certain remark by a BJP member led to a uproar as non-BJP members vociferously objected to it. National Front, Left Front and Muslim League members rushed into the well of the house and started arguing with the chair. Repeated pleas by the speaker to maintain order were not heeded. As the pandemonium continued, the house had to be adjourned abruptly for half an hour.

State Given Time To File Affidavit

BK1607162692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Supreme Court has given the Uttar Pradesh Government time till Monday [20 Jul] to file a detailed affidavit on the construction work at the disputed Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] site at Ayodhya. The court had asked the state government yesterday to file the affidavit today.

The counsel for the Uttar Pradesh government submitted that despite the best efforts, authorities were unable to ascertain the facts for incorporation in the affidavit. He said the situation there is not conducive for any such investigation as a large number of sadhus [mendicants] and pilgrims had gathered at that place.

The court later adjourned till Tuesday the hearing of the three petitions seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the Uttar Pradesh government for carrying out construction at the disputed site in violation of earlier directions of the court. The orders were passed by the division bench comprising Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachelliah, and Mr. Justice G.N. Ray.

Pakistan Accused of Interference

BK1607125792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] New Delhi has described as totally unacceptable Pakistan Foreign Office's observation on Babri Masjid. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the remarks amount to interference in the internal affairs of India. He said neither

Pakistan nor the Organization of Islamic Countries have any locus standi in the matter.

INSAT-2A Placed on Full In-Orbit Configuration

BK1607133792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The INSAT-2A has been placed on its full in-orbit configuration and three-axes stabilized mode last night [sentence as heard]. A press release issued in New Delhi today said that all the systems on board the satellite are functioning satisfactorily. The spacecraft is now moving toward its final operation location in the geostationary orbit. It will reach its final position in about 12 days from now.

Aerial, CS-Band Antenna Deployed

BK1607120092 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] The solar aerial and the CS-band antenna reflector of the INSAT-2A have been deployed successfully. In a crucial and flawless operation, the solar aerial was deployed by the scientists of the Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] last night. It was followed up with the deployment of the CS-band antenna reflector on the east phase of the satellite. A press release issued by ISRO in Bangalore today said the 15.5 square meter solar aerial comprising five panels was generating 1,200 watts of power for various systems on board the spacecraft. All the systems on board the satellite are working satisfactorily.

Eight Killed in Crossfire in Srinagar 16 Jul

BK1707092092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, eight persons, including a BSF [Border Security Force] commandant, were killed and four security personnel injured in a cross firing incident in (Ishaq) area of Srinagar last night. According to an official spokesman, the incident followed a grenade attack by militants. Seven persons were also killed in the exchange of fire between the militants and the security forces.

Meanwhile, the curfew continues in the three police station areas of Nuhatta, Maharajganj, and Khaniar.

Troops 'Randomly' Kill Civilians

BK1707094492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Srinagar, India, July 17 (AFP)—Indian troops randomly killed seven civilians in Srinagar following the death of their commander in a Moslem militant-led ambush in this troubled Kashmir city, police sources said Friday.

Three children and four merchants were killed in the random shootings by paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) personnel late Thursday in the strife-torn northern Indian province, the sources said.

Residents said that after the shooting spree BSF troops launched a house-to-house search in Shalimar District to flush out militants, who earlier had ambushed and killed their commander.

Moslem secessionists armed with grenades, machine-guns and Kalashnikov assault rifles ambushed a BSF patrol Thursday and killed the senior security commander and injured four soldiers in the district.

The body of the slain officer would be flown to New Delhi later Friday on a military helicopter, the sources said.

Meanwhile, another child was killed elsewhere in Srinagar in a similar shootout Thursday evening.

Police authorities imposed an indefinite curfew Friday in parts of the city to prevent possible militant-inspired mourners' marches after weekly prayers.

Srinagar has been the urban hub for militants, who are campaigning violently for Kashmir's secession from India.

Hundreds of civilians have died in the (word indistinct) in clashes between Indian security forces and rebels.

New Coal Mining Bill To Involve Private Sector

BK1607081492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The coal minister, Mr. P.A. Sangma, yesterday introduced in the Rajya Sabha, the Coal Mines Nationalization Amendment Bill. The bill seeks to allow private sector participation in coal mining for power generation. It also permits the private sector to set up coal washeries. The introduction of the bill witnessed procedural wrangles with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member, Mr. J.P. Mathur, saying that it was a money bill and therefore it cannot be moved in the upper house. Mr. Jogesh Desai, who was in the chair, ruled that the bill cannot be categorized as the money and the minister is justified in introducing the bill in the Rajya Sabha.

Minister Affirms No Shortage of Pharmaceuticals

BK1607081292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The minister of state for chemical and fertilizers, Dr. Chinta Mohan, told the Rajya Sabha during question hour today that there is no shortage of drugs in the market as reported in a section of the press. Giving his analysis in reply to a question, Dr. Chinta Mohan said there are 40,000 drugs produced in the country, out of which only 47 are found to be not available in the market now. Most of the shortages are of specific brands and of medicines having low turnover. The minister said in such cases, equivalent medicines are available in the market in other brands.

Economic Performance 'In Precipitous Decline'

BK1607051192 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Jul 92 pp 1, 9

[By Bharat Bhushan]

[Text] Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh have of late been repeatedly trying to assure the public through press conferences and interviews that they believe the economy is about to look up.

However, their faith in things improving soon is not reflected even in the internal assessment of the Finance Ministry which, in fact, shows a precipitous decline in the performance of the Indian economy over the last one year.

The monthly economic report for June, 1992, prepared by the ministry for the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), paints a gloomy picture of the overall state of the economy in a remarkably, candid manner:

"Deficient pre-monsoon rainfall. Lower foodgrains stocks, procurement and offtake. Stagnant industrial production. Mixed trends in infrastructure and investment climate. Higher growth in money supply. Inflationary pressures continue. Exports (in dollar terms) sluggish but trade deficit at record low. Substantial improvement in external aid. Marginal decline in foreign exchange reserves."

This report (No. 8(e)/Ec. Dn./92) has been prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the ministry. It has been circulated to the members of the CCEA and the Planning Commission.

Both Mr Rao and Dr Singh can be credited with having glanced through it if not with having studied it in detail. In any case, it has been available with them for nearly two weeks.

The report shows industrial performance under the present Government has been near-disastrous. In the previous year (1990-91), despite the Gulf War, political instability at the Centre, the Mandal agitation and NRI [Non Repatriable Investment] capital flight, industrial production in India showed a growth of 8.5 per cent.

A year later, 1991-92, despite the economic liberalisation, a stable Government at the Centre and a so-called social consensus on most policy issues, industrial production actually declined or at best remained stagnant.

The report shows that between April 1991 and February 1992, the manufacturing sector in the country showed a decline of 2 per cent (as opposed to a growth of 9.6 per cent in the corresponding period the previous year) while the mining and quarrying sector remained stagnant (against a 3.4 per cent growth the previous year).

The electricity sector, however, recorded a growth of 8.3 per cent in 1991-92 compared to 7.4 per cent in 1990-91.

The trends in the industrial sector also seem to be going counter to the hypothesis of liberalisation theorists who blame the poor performance of the infrastructural sector for industrial stagnation in India.

In the last one year, the infrastructure industries—especially the power and transport sector—have performed exceptionally well. The growth in the electricity sector shows there has been no power bottleneck. The 6 per cent rise in the revenue-earning goods traffic handled by the railways indicates there was no transport bottleneck.

Yet there has been no industrial growth. There was a decline of 1.4 per cent in the production of saleable steel, 0.2 per cent in cement, 0.3 per cent in fertilisers and 11.8 per cent in crude petroleum.

Exports in dollar terms fell in 1991-92 by 1.9 per cent, according to the Finance Ministry. This was largely accounted for by a fall in exports to the rupee payment areas as the exports to the general currency area actually rose by 6.3 per cent.

However, this performance has to be seen against the Eighth Plan export target growth rate of 13 per cent per year in dollar terms that is needed to have a comfortable and sustainable balance of payments position. Exports in 1991-92 have thus grown at less than half this required rate of growth.

The report shows imports have declined by 19.4 per cent. Falling imports are widely recognised to be both the symptom and cause of industrial recession. The record decline in trade deficit stemmed from low imports.

That inflation may not fall is indicated by the sharp expansion in money supply (M3). The report shows that on May 1, 1992, it was higher by 18.5 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

Now the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement shows M3 continued to grow throughout May and, as of May 29, 1992, it was 18.95 per cent higher than the corresponding period the previous year. The monetary pressure on inflation is thus continuing.

Underlining the dismal agricultural performance under the present Government, the report points out that against the same period last year the foodgrain stocks of the country were lower by 22.4 per cent at the end of April, 1992.

The procurement of rice and wheat this year (up to May 27, 1992) was lower than that in the previous year by 18.6 and 18.5 per cent, respectively. Although the offtake from the public distribution system was, till March, higher than last year, in April it declined by more than 17 per cent compared to April, 1991.

This indicates the Government was pushing less foodgrain through the PDS [expansion unknown] because of the lower foodstocks.

The job market too has gone down during the last one year. The number of job seekers went up while the number of jobs notified and the number of placements effected declined. Thus the number of those on the five register of employment exchanges at the end of February, 1992, was higher by 5.2 per cent over the same period of the previous year.

The number of those who got jobs through the employment exchanges declined by 8.2 per cent and the number of vacancies notified by the employment exchanges went down by 15.8 per cent.

Iran

Imminent UK Arms Supply Deal Reported

PM1407112492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Jul 92 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Delegation to London To Conclude Military Deal"]

[Excerpts] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—A well-known British arms dealer has revealed that secret talks are currently being held between British Defense Ministry officials and the Iranian military procurement office in London. According to the same source, the subject of the talks is a huge military deal which, if concluded, will be the biggest between Iran and a Western state since the establishment of the Islamic republic in 1979.

The British dealer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Tehran expressed its desire to purchase British spare parts and military equipment, including spare parts for Chieftain tanks, a large number of which Iran owns, in addition to Centurions, Howitzers, and 120mm and 130mm guns through the Defense Ministry's logistics department office in Karachi, Pakistan.

He added that a number of arms dealers—including himself—contacted the Karachi office, which arranged for them to visit Tehran secretly late in April.

During the visit the arms dealers met with Defense Minister Akbar Torkan, Chief of Staff 'Ali Shahbazi, and director of military industries Engineer Tula'i [as transliterated]; it was agreed to export the required military equipment to Iran via a third state (Singapore.)

The British arms dealer confirmed that he experienced no difficulty in finding some of the military equipment that Iran needs. However, both he and the other dealers and brokers were very surprised to discover that there were direct contacts between Iran and the circles in charge of arms sales in Britain. When they contacted Tehran to inform it of the delivery date for the military equipment, they were told that direct contacts existed with the quarter exporting the arms, so that their services were no longer required, and that there was no need for them to supply British arms to Iran secretly and by illegal means. [passage omitted]

With regard to the sale of British arms to Iran, the available information is that there is a high-level Iranian delegation in Europe and that it is expected to arrive in London next week to hold the final talks on a comprehensive military deal with Britain. [passage omitted]

British MP Support for MKO Protested

NC1607054992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The British charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon to receive a protest after a group of British parliamentarians expressed support for the terrorist monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] group.

Our correspondent attributes this information to Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, who said: The British Foreign Office subsequently issued a statement saying that the stand of a group of British MP's [member of parliament] does not represent the views of the British Government, and that the British Government wants to expand relations with Iran.

Some 230 British MP's signed a letter expressing support for the activities of the monafeqin group.

President—No Superpower 'Initiative' in Bosnia

NC1707114692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1017 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Friday prayers sermon in Arabic by President Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 17 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God. May God's peace and blessings be upon his Prophet, people, and believers. Every day the sons of the Islamic nation receive reports about the sedition, suffering, and bloodshed in many parts of the Islamic world, especially in Bosnia-Hercegovina. International forums and superpowers are not showing any initiative or exerting any concerted or effective effort to squelch the fire of sedition and the destructive, all-consuming war.

These forums' initiatives do not go beyond a few meetings, statements, and decisions. Occasionally they provide a very small amount of food and medical aid.

We recently witnessed how these people confronted the crisis the Iraqi rulers created in Kuwait. We also witnessed how they handled their objectives in other parts of former Yugoslavia. This blatant discrimination, in addition to the brutality and ferocity of the Serbian soldiers in their campaigns against the Muslims, increases doubts and suspicions in the conscience of every (?God-fearing) person and raises questions in the minds of people which have gone unanswered.

Is global infidelity conspiring to seek revenge against Muslims and Islam? Isn't the goal of global arrogance to weaken the Muslims? Will some of the deceitful intentions and opinions be obscured by these glistening statements, which call for halting the bloodshed and destruction resulting from this aggression? These questions are sufficient to mobilize Arab and Islamic countries to help rescue the Muslims wherever they are: in the Balkans, Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Caucasus, or Kashmir. The time has come to utilize potential and abilities to realize our noble goals. I take refuge in God from Satan. "In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful. Say: He is God, the one and only, God, the eternal, absolute; he begetteth not, nor is he begotten; and there is none like unto him." [Koranic verse] God's peace and blessings be upon you all.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets WHO Director General

LD1407212192 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today appreciated humanitarian services of the World Health Organization (WHO) throughout the world.

In his meeting with the visiting WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that responsible international organizations as well as the rich nations would contribute more than they did for promoting the goals of WHO.

He said the organization would do good to acquaint the world people with standardized modern health criteria which the world people might adopt as a universal model.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said because of Iran's concern for human well-being the Iranian Government would spare no effort to promote the humanitarian objectives of WHO.

Nakajima lauded current health services in Iran saying also that he had personally witnessed modern health and medical research programs under way in the country. He expressed his concern over the poor status of health services in certain countries and requested that Iran increase help to those countries.

The WHO director general thanked President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for medical education of health specialists in Iran and for offering health services to the countries of the region.

Velayati Continues Visit to Germany

Meets Moellemann

LD1607171892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Our country's foreign affairs minister had a meeting this afternoon with Juergen Moellemann, vice chancellor and minister of economic affairs of Germany, in which they talked on bilateral ties.

During the meeting, Mr. Velayati emphasized the need for striking a balance in trade and economic exchanges between the countries. He called for more extensive ties, while honoring current commitments and implementing agreements between the two countries.

Mr. Moellemann noted the great importance which his country attached to its political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed hope that Mr. Velayati's visit to Germany would have a positive impact and lead to further ties between the two countries.

He also stressed his country's willingness to increase trading cooperation, investments, and technology transfers in Iran.

MKO Attacks Velayati's Car

NC1607195492 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] This morning in Potsdam, East Germany, supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] carried out a precise and daring operation, attacking Velayati's automobile, shattering its windows, and pelting the head and beard of the criminal foreign minister of the dregs of the Khomeyni regime with rotten eggs.

This operation took place at 0930 in the morning German time, 1200 noon, Tehran time. During this unprecedented operation, which even took the German police by surprise, MKO supporters hid along the route of the huge motorcade of the criminal Velayati, whose entourage was accompanying him amid stringent security and a police escort on his way to a diplomatic meeting. They carried out a lightning attack on his automobile, throwing a heavy metal object at the bullet-proof Mercedes Benz carrying Velayati and considerably damaging the vehicle and shattering the windshield.

As a result of this unforeseen attack, the driver of the car lost control, and the car swerved to a sudden stop, causing two motorcycle police escorts to be knocked to the ground. As the vehicle came to a halt, the courageous MKO supporters shouted thunderous slogans of "May the Khomeyni regime be destroyed," "Blessings on Rajavi," and approached criminal Velayati's car. They jumped on the car, broke more windows, and attacked the criminal Velayati, who was crouched in the back of the car with two companions trembling like a (?kicked) dog. They then pelted his face and beard with rotten eggs and tomatoes, making him look totally absurd.

According to some MKO eyewitnesses, the attack was so swift and unexpected that the police were unable to react. The report also mentioned details of the extremely (?frightened) condition of Velayati and the lackeys accompanying him. This precise and daring operation once again proved that the agents and officials of the

regime are not safe anywhere from the hatred and abhorrence of the Iranian people and the hands of the valiant MKO supporters.

These are the hands that threw rotten eggs at the head and face of criminal Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Senegal yesterday [as heard]. Today they pelted the head and beard of lackey Velayati in a manner worth seeing. These are the hands that will wrest their rights tomorrow with the help of the National Liberation Army.

As a result of the humiliation and derision stemming from the heroic MKO attack in Germany, the battered foreign minister of the Khomeyni regime did not complete his visit to Germany, flying home as fear struck this afternoon.

German radio reported that Velayati cut short his visit due to security reasons, saying that he was pelted with eggs by Iranian demonstrators on the first day [as heard] of his visit.

Israel Termed 'Factor of Regional Instability'

LD1607203392 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Ankara, July 16, (IRNA)—Iran's ambassador to Ankara Mohammad Reza Baqeri today described the Zionist regime as a "factor of regional instablity and insecurity".

Upon the arrival here today of the head of the Zionist regime Chaim Herzog, Baqeri said the Islamic republic does not recognize a country by the name of Israel in the world.

Daily HURRIYET published in Istanbul, today quoted Baqeri as saying that Herzog was head of a racist zionist group which has occupied part of the Islamic land, killing or rendering homeless the original owners of the occupied lands.

Terming the Zionist regime as a "growing regional cancerous tumour" Baqeri added that as long it exists, the region would not witness calm and peace.

Herzog's visit to Turkey Has prompted Muslims' outrage.

National daily GAZETE published in Istanbul described those who extended an invitation to Herzog as having no honor and prestige.

The Israeli official who arrived in Istanbul Wednesday, is to particiapate in a commemoration ceremony marking the 500th immigration anniversary of the Sephardic to the Ottoman Empire [as received]. The ceremony to be attended by Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel will be held in Istanbul.

To protect Herzog, Istanbul's police has adopted tight security measures around his residence.

Va'ezi Meets With Russian Ambassador

LD1507181492 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's message for his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, was submitted to Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi by Russian Ambassador Vladimir Gudev here last night.

Va'ezi, who is in charge of Euro-American affairs, discussed with Gudev the expansion of bilateral and regional cooperation, the Karabakh issue and the Caspian Sea coastal states' conference held in Tehran February 16-17.

Effects of Algerian Situation on Maghreb Viewed

LD1507080992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The trial of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders is to resume in a military court in the town of Blida, 50 km south of Algiers, after a 24-hour delay. [passage omitted]

According to the media sources, summoning three senior officials from the administration of former Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to testify in court could change the outcome of the FIS leaders' trial. [passage omitted] The three have been called to supply information on the minutes of the agreement reached between them and the FIS leaders last year which led to ending widespread strikes protesting the election law.

On the basis of this verbal agreement, in return for ending the strikes the then officials had pledged to: 1. reappoint those workers who had taken part in the strikes or had been fired; 2. not to dissolve the FIS; 3. to guarantee the election results; 4. to refrain from arresting the FIS leaders. But all of these pledges were repealed after Chadli Benjedid's resignation.

Political analysts have come to believe that the refusal of the FIS leaders and their defense lawyers to attend a military court was to protest the nature of the court and the charges leveled against them. Madani and his followers believe that the charges against them are of a political nature, and therefore not in the jurisdiction of a military court.

The persistance of the Algerian Government to try the FIS leaders in the military court is taking place at a time when the officer charged with the assassination of Boudiaf, the head of Algeria's ruling council, is being tried in a civil court—an issue which greatly weakens and casts doubt on the stance adopted by the Algerian Government in the face of the FIS leaders' demands.

A few days ago the military court in the town of Annaba declared itself incompetent to try the officer charged with Boudiaf's assassination, referring him to the civil court.

The FIS leaders also reject the public prosecutor's charges and his request to try the accused on the basis of Article 90 of the Algerian Penal Code. [passage omitted]

Political observers believe that the nature of the court and the charges leveled against the FIS leaders relates more than anything to the political decisions of Algeria's ruling clique. This will bring about one of two contradictory situations: Either the ruling council will show goodwill in the face of the FIS' declaration of readiness to open talks—and by assisting the FIS and their wide popular base and other national forces, alleviate that country's political and economic problems; or it will put the FIS leaders on a speedy trial—in which case it would lead to dangerous and unforseeable consequences. These observers believe there is no doubt that the exacerbation of the political and security conditions in Algeria will not be limited to the country itself, and as a result of the deep social bonds and cultural and religious similarities in the Arabian Maghreb region, this crisis will reach the neighboring countries.

The situation in Tunisia at present is not dissimilar to Algeria, with the difference that the ruling party in Tunisia has exercised a greater use of force against the Islamists. The simultaneous trial of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement in Tunisia with that of the FIS leaders serves to indicate that country's vulnerability to the developments in Algeria. The situation in Morocco is not much better than Tunisia.

In view of the sensitive situation in Algeria and its influence on the Arabian Maghreb region and North Africa, these political observers believe that the spread of the confrontation in Algeria is not in the interest of the ruling government, the FIS, or the countries of that region and that compromise is the best solution to saving Algeria and North Africa from a gloomy future.

Western 'Plot' To 'Dismember' Iraq Assailed

NC1507102492 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jul 92 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Dismemberment of Iraq—Never!"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The regional activities of the powers of world arrogance assumed a more practical form when the first Kurdish government proclaimed its existence in northern Iraq.

There are fifteen members, including a woman, in the Kurdish cabinet of Iraqi Kurdistan. The head of the government, Jalal Talabani, is from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the prime minister and interior minister are from Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party. The parliament, inaugurated on 19 May, elected the president of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Thus the domineering objectives of the United States and its allies have been manifested more overtly than ever before. The West, which previously sought to strengthen Saddam and transform him into the "regional policeman," is now seeking to undermine him to attain the objectives it has been seeking for years.

The dismemberment of Iraq is one of the top items on the agenda of the powers of world arrogance, and is being hastily pursued under the banner of "democracy" on the pretext of setting up a parliament and government for the Iraqi Kurds.

In this regard, certain points merit serious attention. From the outset it was clear that the West—with its interference in the region and its repressive actions in the name of "crushing the aggressor" and retrieving Kuwait—had certain specific objectives it was seeking to attain on the pretext of crushing Saddam.

It was for this reason that the heavy allied attacks were not directed toward Saddam or the military structure, but at destroying Iraq's economic and industrial structure and massacring the people. Military operations were suddenly suspended just as Saddam was on the verge of being toppled. In a diplomatic posture, Bush declared that the United States was acting within a principled framework and that "Desert Storm" was aimed at ending the aggression and destroying Iraq's aggressive capability, not at eliminating Saddam.

If there was anyone who believed Bush's utterances and was unable to comprehend the motives behind these remarks, the subsequent actions of the United States and its allies, especially the deployment of troops in northern Iraq to establish a "peace zone" in Iraqi Kurdistan, prove that the next stage of this charade will take place in Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Any simplemindedness, failure to recognize the truth behind these events, or leniency will have serious and unpleasant repercussions for the region and every country bordering Iraq.

Turkey has adopted a very irresponsible approach to Iraq, and is constantly seeking to exploit the situation. Turkey has realized, however, that "you reap what you sow," and this is why the region's major security problems are affecting Turkey as well as its neighbors.

Fortunately, Iran's stance has been very clear, steadfast, and consistent, especially regarding the problems of the Iraqi Kurds. Iran was the first country to realize the true nature of Saddam and the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

While condemning Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Iran also condemned and rejected all efforts to dismember Iraq. Iraq's territorial integrity

should be preserved at all costs. Iraq's problems, yesterday and today, stem from its bloodthirsty regime. This regime gained access to a vast offensive capability, with the help of the powers of world arrogance and their lackeys in the region, and ignited a major conflagration. This problem can only be solved with the overthrow of Saddam and the installation of a government chosen by the Iraqi nation.

Any effort to exploit Iraq's current weakness and its status as an object of disgrace to carve up the country is to be rejected and condemned. Those Iraqi Kurds who, in their disillusionment, have taken refuge with the powers of world arrogance and are pleased with the solutions they offer should realize that these powers are the region's enemies and that they have no compassion for Saddam or any regional state.

The West's double-dealing toward Saddam has now become clear, but it is possible the Iraqi Kurds may wake up too late to the truth behind the West's policies.

In any case, there is no time for advice. Any effort to divide Iraq, regardless of who is behind it, should be condemned. If Iraq's territorial integrity is not preserved, everyone concerned will be harmed. This plot poses a security problem for all of Iraq's neighbors; the dimensions are so extensive that it should not be treated as an internal Iraqi matter.

Saddam and the Baghdad regime are loathsome entities, but this should not be a license to endorse the division of the Islamic homeland of Iraq. This is why our stance has been, is, and will be: Dismemberment of Iraq—Never!

Daily Cited on Factional Groups in Pakistan

LD1407094192 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—The 'TEHRAN TIMES' daily Tuesday called on Islamabad to clamp down on schismatic groups, and realize that superficial treatment of the terrorist Sahaba group will create further instability in Pakistan.

Editorializing on the armed clashes in Peshawar on the day of "Ashura'—the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hoseyn (PBUH) [peace be upon him] the prophet's (PBUH) grandson—the English language daily said that Pakistan, over the past few years, "has turned into a major center for attacks on Shiite mourning ceremonies."

The opponents of the Islamic revolution, it said "fearing its spread and expansion, resorted to various means and tools to counter it. One such tool was to create the illusion in the minds of the Muslims that the Islamic revolution should be considered as a solely Shiite movement."

However, the spread of Islamism in Muslim countries especially in North Africa has frustrated the objectives of the opponents to sow discord among the various schools of Islamic thought, it added.

Nevertheless, cautioned the daily, creating differences among various religious schools in the world of Islam "can still be efficient and functional, especially if some biased sects can be indirectly controlled and used against others at the opportune time, such groups to some extent reach their predetermined objectives."

According to the daily, Pakistan's "simpleminded and ignorant" Sahaba group falls into this category, with its "leadership cadre receiving orders and money from outside the Pakistani borders", and whose "aim so far has been the massacre and harassment of the Pakistani Shiites."

But, pointed out TEHRAN TIMES, the reason the schismatic Sahaba sect has been able to reach its goals of sowing discord among different Islamic schools of thought is because of "the negligent and careless approach adopted by the Pakistani Government."

The editorial in conclusion warned Islamabad against creation of further instability in Pakistan, "an instability which might face Pakistan with civil war, if the violators and trespassers of the law are not timely brought to account and dealt with."

Commentary Sees 'Plan' Behind Unrest in Pakistan

LD1707091792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1006 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The situation has not yet returned to normal in the Pakistani city of Peshawar following recent attacks by some discord-sowing groups against Hoseynite mourners [Shiites performing their 'Ashura' ceremonies], in which a number of Shiites were martyred or injured. [passage omitted]

The fact is that current happenings in Pakistan indicate a large-scale, destructive plan aimed at weakening that vast Islamic country as much as possible.

For many years, and especially after Pakistan became independent, Shiite and Sunni Muslims performed their religious ceremonies in a brotherly atmosphere. But in the past few years, sectarian elements have given the enemies of the people of Pakistan a real opportunity to attack the unity of Muslims, and they intend to exploit this faction-ridden climate for their own illegitimate objectives.

There is no doubt that Pakistan's national security faces grave dangers because of this serious sectarian aggression. Political observers believe that the country's domestic difficulties are due to problems arising from sectarian troubles and ethnic contradictions. Of course, there are also some external threats which fan the flames of these problems. Pakistan undoubtedly has differences

with its traditional rival in the region, India, over different issues. But the threats directed at Pakistan's security are definitely rooted in U.S. interventionist policies in that country.

There are various reasons why Pakistan has become a target. The most important of these is that the country is Islamic. Pakistan has a large population and an educated and enlightened class with strong Islamic tendencies which, along with its military strength and technological capabilities, can endanger the long-term U.S. interests in the region. Of course, the pro-Iranian sentiments of Pakistan's Muslim masses provide another important factor in the enemies' plot to weaken Pakistan.

In any case, the Islamic world expects the government and people of Pakistan to be vigilant and careful in the face of these conspiracies and to preserve the spirit of fraternity in society, in order to ensure the failure of this sinister development.

Basij Meeting Urges Battling West's 'Onslaught'

LD1607112592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Support was expressed during a Basij forces meeting for the esteemed leader's [Ayatollah Khamene'i] important and warning remarks about the need to support good and prohibit evil and to fight against the West's extensive cultural onslaught.

In this connection, Interior Minister Nuri-Hoseynabadi sent a message to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, which says: The Interior Ministry, together with the heroic nation and the sincere and God-fearing basij forces, welcomes the call of the beloved leader and is ready to follow your eminence's orders in implementing the Koranic injunction concerning doing good and prohibiting evil in order to counter the Western cultural onslaught and invasion and all its corruptions and manifestations.

To this end, all the relevant officials in the Interior Ministry and the security forces have been ordered not to refrain from any action in support of this mass movement, and to implement your sublime orders through their ever-increasing efforts and dedication.

The secretariat of the Assembly of Experts in a statement also expressed its firm support for the remarks of the leader of the Islamic revolution, and called on the officials of the country, the members of the Assembly of Experts, the Friday imams, and other eminent ulema and those involved in cultural affairs not to refrain from any effort to fully implement the remarks of the esteemed leader and to inform the noble Iranian people and to prepare the ground for implementation of the divine injunction regarding enjoing good and the prohibition of evil in society.

Support Voiced for Recent Khamene'i Speech

LD1707103192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] The heads and officials of the judiciary branch's organizations, judges throughout the country, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] and the Islamic Publicity Organization have announced their support for the recent speech of the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i].

Part of the IRGC statement says: The brave Pasdaran [guards] of the revolution and the self-sacrificing basijis are ready to stand side by side with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims of the world [vali-ye amr-e moslemin-e jahan], to confront any enemy cultural invasion or plot and its reflection in society, and to defend and guard the lofty values of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Khamene'i Reinstates Guardian Council Members

LD1407211292 Tehran IRNA in English 1311 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i here today reinstated three members of the Guardian Council Ayatollahs Ahmad Jannati, 'Abolqasem Khazali and Gholamreza Rezvani.

The present tenure of the afore-said members as the jurisprudents of the council will come to an end on 17 July.

According to the Article 91 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the leader of the Islamic revolution has the power to appoint the six jurisprudents of the council.

The council, comprising six jurisprudents and six lawyers, is responsible for watching the approvals of the Majles (Parliament), and making sure of their conformity with the Islamic rulings and the articles of the Constitution.

Mobilization To 'Shatter U.S. Might' Urged

NC1507141792 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Jul 92 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "We Should Not Forget the Crimes of the United States"]

[Excerpt] Four years ago, on 3 July 1988, the U.S. warship S.S. Vincennes criminally attacked a Dubai-bound Iranian passenger plane with a missile and martyred nearly 300 innocent passengers. Following this act of savagery, the U.S. Government claimed an F-14 had been downed. Later it claimed the plane was downed because it was on a suicide mission. Eventually, it announced it was merely an accident. Two years later,

Bush awarded a medal of valor to that warship's commander in appreciation of his performance.

Obviously, Iran's complaint to the Security Council and to the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization] had no effect and as usual the international community merely bypassed the issue with a cursory expression of regret.

What has remained is the ever-proliferating U.S. influence in the southern countries of the Persian Gulf and its increasing military presence in Persian Gulf waters. Scores of U.S. warships and destroyers have created congestion in the Persian Gulf. Daily, we are witnessing meetings of high- and low-level U.S. officials with their counterparts in the Persian Gulf countries and military pacts being signed with these countries that are swiftly being transformed into U.S. military bases one after the other.

Only yesterday the U.S. naval commander in Doha met his Qatari counterparts and concluded two months of extensive joint military maneuvers. The U.S. Special Airborne Divisions carried out parachuting operations in a desert area theoretically designated enemy territory!

It appears that we should keep the hallowed, revolutionary fires of hatred against the United States burning constantly and we should never forget the American crimes against Muslims and Iranian citizens. A policy of forgetfulness, tacit consent, and silence is too simple. The United States' heavy military presence in this region should be shattered. Experience has shown that our prescription for resolving this state of affairs is wrong.

Some mild-mannered officials believe U.S. prestige should be projected in the country in such a manner that the acceptance of ties with the United States should become a widely accepted idea that is viewed as an only resort. They see the American danger as one that can annihilate the country, so they believe that the only thing to do is to come to terms with the United States.

Even if such beliefs are merely implied, it is the height of folly. The great Iranian nation has fought the United States worldwide and emerged victorious. We should believe that power stems from the people and that God is omnipotent. If all the country's abundant resources and potential talent were tapped, barriers could be destroyed. By preserving the revolutionary forces and organizing the forces loyal to the revolution, and not letting them lapse into indifference, we can shatter the U.S. might in the region. [passage omitted]

Seminar on Population and Development Opens

LD1707110192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpt] A seminar on population and development opened in Azadi Hotel in Tehran this morning with a speech by First Vice President Habibi. The latest scientific, technical, and research findings for controlling the population growth in the country, harmonizing the programs now being implemented, and planning for the future will be among the issues discussed in the seminar.

According to the report by our correspondent, in this seminar the first vice president, referring to the importance of controlling population growth as part of national planning, said: The issues of population and economic growth should be studied from various angles including housing, food, health and medicine, education, and employment, because to ignore such issues would multiply our difficulties in the future.

Expressing his appreciation of the steps taken to control population growth in the country, and calling on all the relevant organizations to cooperate in this matter, Mr. Habibi stressed that these programs should be in keeping with the cultural, religious, and ideological norms of the country.

Then Mr. Malekzadeh, minister of health, hygiene, and medical training, said about the issue of controlling population growth: Although the population growth rate is now under control, the rate of growth is very high by international standards. He added: Existing statistics show that 84 percent of the men and women of our country have welcomed family planning programs and that this trend is continuing. The population growth rate of 3.2 percent in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] was reduced to 2.7 percent in the following year, and it is expected to be further reduced to 2.5 percent in the year after that. [passage omitted]

Health Official Promotes Family Planning

LD1607202492 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 14, (IRNA)—If Iran's population should continue to rise as it does every year the country will need to build 500,000 schools, 500,000 residential units and create 600,000 new jobs, according to head of health ministry's population and family planning bureau Samad Asad-Pur.

The health ministry official said here today that Iran's population had become six times what it was in 1901 which, he said, was a pattern which would repeat once every 30 years if the country's population growth should continue at its present rate.

He said the gap between growth in the production of foodstuffs on the one hand and population increase on the other was gradually widening especially in the developing countries which situation, he observed, might be exploited as a politico-economic device in the hands of the developed countries.

In order to survive, Asad-Pur proposed at the news conference, Iran has no alternative other than opt for a

well-planned demographic scheme suited to her socio-economic development, since the country's agricultural produce would feed only half of the country's population.

He said 500,000 would-be mothers die annually because of unspaced pregnancies, of whom only 6,000 were from the developed nations [as received]. According to him about 50,000 abortions were made annually in the world out of which 150 led to death of the subjects. He said research showed that one out of every three pregnancies was unplanned.

The official emphasized on the urgency of preventing unwanted pregnancies in Iran by proper education and offering of facilities to married people.

Iran's population according to the latest census is 60 million.

Council Backs Gradual Tobacco Import Reduction

LD1607213192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired this morning's Expediency Discernment Council [majma-ye tashkhis-e maslahat-e nezam] session. The plans for the gradual ban on importing and cultivating tobacco and producing, distributing, and using tobacco products were reviewed and debated. After the council's confirmation for the bill on gradually banning tobacco and stressing support for farmers and related industries, it decided that, regarding the necessity of limiting imports on cigarettes, the government should study and act toward reducing tobacco products use and becoming self-sufficient in the domestic production of tobacco to meet restricted needs.

Smugglers Arrested After 813 Kg of Opium Seized

LD1407102892 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Zahedan (Sistan-Baluchestan), July 14, IRNA—Some 813 kgs of opium were seized by the law enforcement officers in this southeastern province over the past few days, it was announced here Tuesday.

The law enforcement officers also arrested 86 smugglers in this connection and handed them over to the judicial authorities of the province.

Last week, some smuggled goods, worth rls. 400 million, 12 firearms and 42,800 bullets were seized by the law enforcement officers here and 135 smugglers arrested in this connection.

Pakistan

Sharif—Opposition 'Failed' To Cause Sindh Crisis

BK1607145892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said that his government's privatization policy has drawn worldwide appreciation and it will be continued without any let or hindrance. The prime minister was addressing the workers of Millat Tractors near Shahadra today. Fifteen thousand tractors are produced annually in this factory. The prime minister said that privatization of the taken-over industries was in the best interests of the nation and no future ruler could dare to reverse this process.

He said due to liberal economic policy of the government the foreign exchange reserves have risen to $1,000 million, which were only $25 million one and half years ago. He said unemployment in the country is now on the decline because of the investment and more employment opportunities. The prime minister said the nation had now started moving toward its destination. A new era of progress and prosperity is ushering in the country and by the grace of Almighty, Pakistan will be a developed country by the year 1995. The prime minister asked the political parties to honor the mandate of the people. Those parties who were rejected by the people in previous elections should wait till 1995. Later, the prime minister handed over the key of the factory to the new management and workers.

Later, talking to newsmen, the prime minister said the government of the Sindh chief minister, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, has proved its clear majority in the Sindh Assembly and there was no constitutional crisis in the province. He said the law and order situation in Sindh has improved. The incidents of dacoity [robbery] and kidnapping have decreased and the government has succeeded in tracing the elements who had attacked trains.

Replying to various questions, the prime minister said the opposition has failed to create any crisis. The government wants that the opposition should play its role in a democratic manner. But if any of the political parties decided to resign from the assembly seats, it would make no difference. The government would hold by-elections according to the Constitution and law on the vacant seats. The people would vote for those people in by-election who want to serve them and are interested to solve problems faced by the country. The prime minister said the undemocratic attitude of the opposition in the Sindh Assembly reflected its negative thinking and politics. Despite its all-out efforts, the opposition had miserably failed to create any constitutional crisis in the province.

Opposition Threatens To Quit Parliament

BK1607151192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Islamabad, July 16 (AFP)—Pakistan's opposition People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) said Thursday it would resign "soon" to force fresh parliamentary elections in the country, PDA spokesman Khurshid Kasuri said.

"We have decided to resign very soon," Kasuri told reporters after the PDA's Central Committee meeting here chaired by former premier and PDA chief Benazir Bhutto.

He did not specify any date for the mass resignation.

The decision would be communicated after consulting other parties not siding with the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Kasuri said, adding that the PDA would try to persuade other parties to resign as well.

Kasuri claimed the government had failed to control the situation in southern Sindh province where the army has been deployed to crack down on lawlessness.

He reiterated that provincial Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Shah had lost his majority after 24 deputies belonging to his coalition partner, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, resigned late June in protest at an army crackdown on its activists.

The PDA also called upon the Sindh governor to "force" Shah to seek a fresh vote of confidence within two weeks, failing which the opposition would launch a nationwide protest campaign on July 30, Kasuri said.

Talking to reporters in the capital of Punjab Province, Lahore, earlier in the day, Sharif said the proposed PDA resignations would pose no political or constitutional problem for his government.

If they want to tender their resignations they should do so without further delay, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoted him as saying.

Sharif said the military action in Sindh had led to a gradual improvement in the law and order situation in the province.

The prime minister said Shah still commanded the majority and "despite all its efforts" the opposition had failed to create any problem for the Sindh government.

Legal Officers To Report Rights Violations

BK1507111592 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] Karachi, July 15—The Supreme Court has issued orders to all law officers in the country, both federal and provincial, to report directly to the court if any human or fundamental rights violations that come to their notice [sentence as published].

Such references should be sent directly to the court and the reporting officers would not be answerable to their departments for having done so.

The orders have been passed by the Supreme Court while hearing a human rights case in Islamabad on forced labour of children, irregularities in education departments all over the country, and rise in offences against women and violations of their rights.

The case was being heard by a bench comprising the chief justice, Mr Justice Mohammad Afzal Zullah, Mr Justice Afzal Lone and Mr Justice Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui.

Copies of the orders have been sent to the attorney-general, the deputy attorney's general, four advocates general of the provinces and additional advocates general.

The Supreme Court, it may be mentioned, has declared 1992 as human rights year, and once a week the courts sittings all over the country, hear applications on human rights violations [sentence as published]. In Karachi, Thursday is fixed for hearing of such cases.

In all such cases, judges have been issued directives by the chief justice, to hear cases of specific nature.

The court's three judges in Karachi have already heard cases involving kidnapping for ransom, corruption and bribery, against railways, PIA [Pakistan International Airlines], customs, central excise and land customs; traffic rules and its mismanagement by the traffic police, and against unhygenic conditions in municipal areas etc.

New Oil, Gas Reserves in Attock District

BK1607162592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Oil and Gas reserves have been located at (Sidkal) near Fatehjang in Attock District. This is the second oil and gas reserve located at (Misal) area where the Oil and Gas Development Corporation is engaged in full-scale operation. The new reserve will yield up to 3,311 barrels of oil and more than 19 million cubic feet of gas daily. Work on drilling of exploratory well at (Sitral) has started.

Pakistani, Afghan, Uzbek Groups Hold Talks

BK1707092592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] At a meeting in Islamabad of the delegations of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan, views were exchanged on the prospects for increasing transit facilities to improve trade among these countries. The Pakistani delegation was led by Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti, minister of state for communications; the Afghan side was led by Engineer Ayoob, adviser to the president of Afghanistan; and the Uzbek delegation by Minister for Highways (Rustam Yunisov). The talks particularly

focused on the draft agreement between Pakistan and Uzbekistan for the construction of roads and highways, mail services via air transport, and cooperation in the telecommunications sector. The draft was prepared at a separate meeting of the senior officials of the two countries. The delegations of the three countries expressed their determination to increase their trade through the construction of highways and other transport facilities.